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- A LOOK AT THE U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM

The HEART & SOUL *of* BOXING

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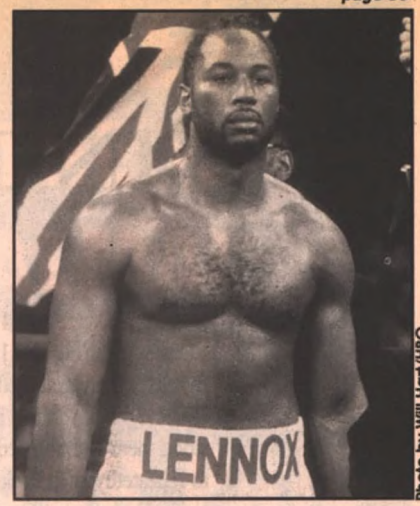

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De La Hoya courtesy of Top Rank

Cover Design: Joe Kalman

RINGSIDE

"The referee should be pistol whipped," said an angry Larry Merchant during the 11th round of the Roy Jones-Richard Hall fight. As Merchant seethed with indignation at the sickeningly one-sided fight unfolding before his eyes, referee Wayne Kelly just stood there and allowed unified light heavyweight champion Jones to repeatedly snap back Hall's head with clean powershots. By that point, I'd been yelling at my TV set for the fight to be stopped for several rounds. But when Kelly finally terminated the rout at the 1:41 mark, Hall, who was still on his feet and relatively clear-eyed, protested vigorously.

Hall's objections notwithstanding, I still think that Jones was permitted to pound on Hall for too long. After all, a real warrior will always want to continue, and guys like Hall, who are too brave for their own good, have to be protected from themselves.

Others, whose opinions I respect, disagree. Senior Writer William Dettloff, for instance, thought that Kelly's call was well-timed and that Merchant and his broadcast partner Jim Lampley were being "alarmists." *Friday Night Fights* co-host Brian Kenny also thought the stoppage was "just about right."

Knowing when to stop a fight is clearly the most critical part of a referee's job, and in most jurisdictions the ref is the only official permitted to do so, though they seldom go against the advice of the ringside doctor. But what about the men working the losing fighter's corner? They can stop a fight anytime they want. Aaron Snowell, Hall's lead trainer, did a good job advising and motivating his man between the early rounds, but should have taken it upon himself to call it off when it became flagrantly obvious that the challenger had done his best, but didn't have a prayer of winning. And while Snowell was the culprit this time, countless other trainers are just as guilty of sending fighters out to get their brains scrambled, when they should be escorting them back to the dressing room.

Of course, a helluva lot of heartache and hand wringing could be eliminated by making better matches in the first place. Despite an inflated number-one rating from the WBA, Hall, who had never fought a world-class opponent prior to challenging for the unified title, didn't belong in the same ring with Jones. But even matches that are far more competitive than Jones-Hall can frequently reach a point where the referee has to make what is sometimes a life-or-death decision.

Some referees will tell you that once the opening bell rings, it's Fighter A vs. Fighter B, not, as was the case here, Jones vs. Hall. The idea is that this sort of thinking prevents preconceived notions from influencing how the third man works a fight. This concept is okay up to a point, but breaks down under certain circumstances. For example, if you know that the boxer dishing out a one-sided butt-kicking is the man considered the finest fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world, and the fighter absorbing the punishment entered the ring a monumental underdog, it would be stupid not to take their relative status and histories into consideration when trying to decide whether or not to call a halt.

There will never be a perfect formula for knowing when to stop a fight, but common sense is imperative. And as far as I'm concerned, the WBA (who made Hall its mandatory challenger), Murad Muhammad (who promoted the fight), HBO (who televised it), referee Kelly, and cornerman Snowell all demonstrated a dangerous deficiency of this most crucial quality. Thankfully, they got away with it—this time.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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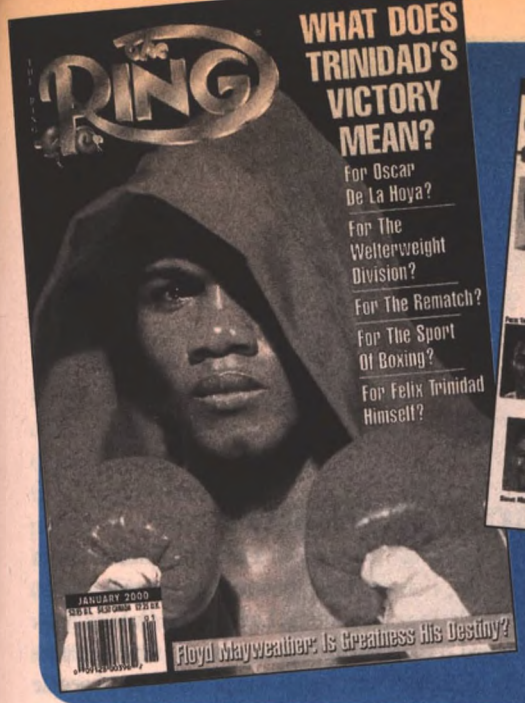

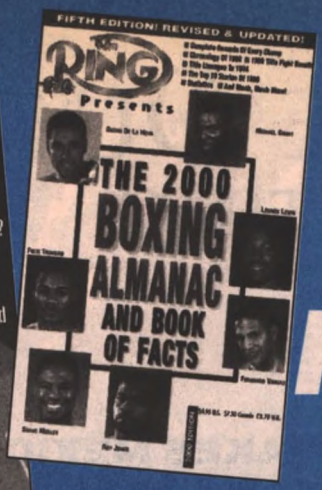

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We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

OSCAR MAKES MEXICANS PROUD

I just finished reading your May 2000 issue and I'm writing in response to a letter by Gilberto Pagan in "Come Out Writing." I am an Oscar De La Hoya fan; I always have been and always will be. Mr. Pagan said De La Hoya lacked *cojones*. I don't know if Mr. Pagan saw the De La Hoya-Ike Quartey fight. I think De La Hoya showed his cojones in the 12th round. Then Mr. Pagan goes on to say what a shameful defeat the loss to Felix Trinidad was for a man who represents such a great and proud group of people like the Mexicans. Then he goes on to say how proud he is to be on the other side, the Puerto Ricans.

Hello! I don't know what fight he watched, but the fight I watched saw De La Hoya clearly win more rounds than he lost. The people I was watching the fight with clearly saw De La Hoya win more rounds than he lost. Even the people who wanted Trinidad to win clearly saw De La Hoya winning the fight. I am of Mexican origin, and I am proud to be part of De La Hoya's origin. In the rematch, we will see who is the proudest of their origin.

JACOB PEDROZA
Ponca City, OK

DUCKING NUNN?

Roy Jones is ducking Michael Nunn. That's right, Roy Jones is clearly afraid of Michael Nunn. In my opinion, Nunn is the most underrated fighter in any division today. He thoroughly outboxed James Toney in 1991 when Toney was one of the top five pound-for-pound in the world, until Toney stopped him in a fluke. Nunn was robbed in a decision loss to Frankie Liles in 1996. Make no mistake, Jones is hoping that the WBC's number-one contender will go away. He won't—and you heard it here first.

PATRICK COLON
Brewster, NY

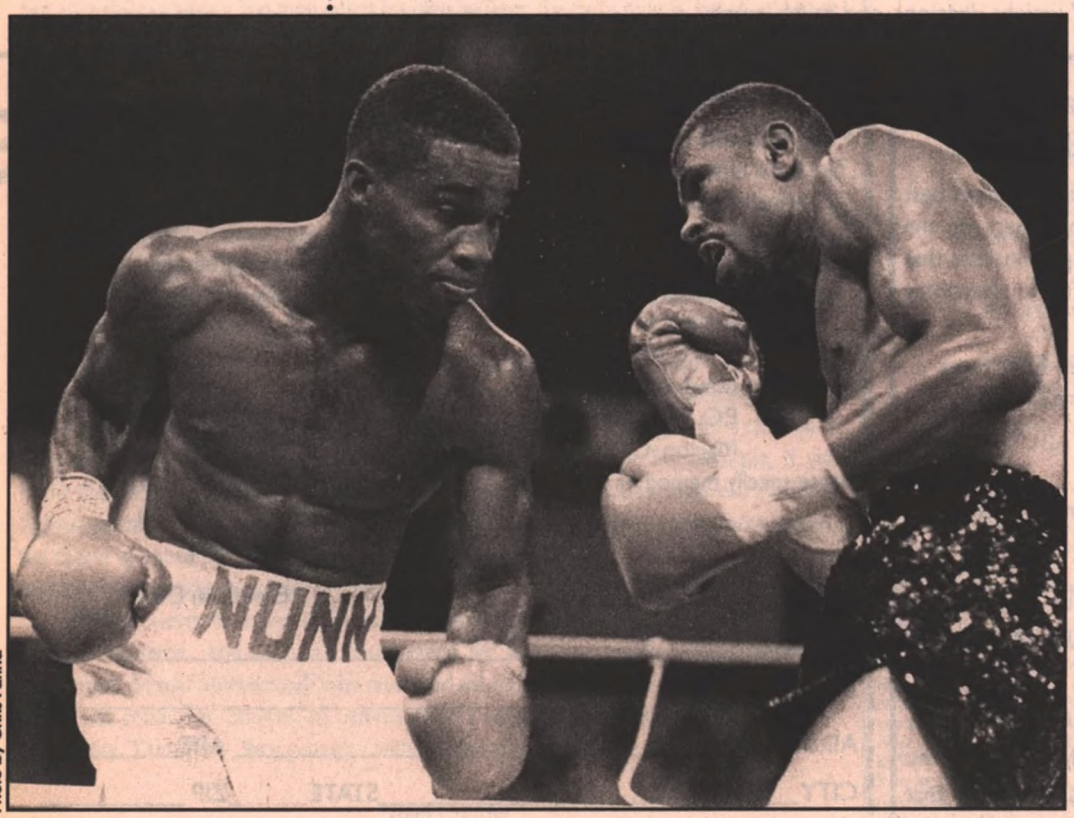


Photo by Chris Farina

Does Michael Nunn, shown here winning his first world title against Frank Tate, deserve a shot at Roy Jones? Reader Patrick Colon feels Nunn is the most underrated boxer in the world today.

A WEIGHTY ISSUE

I enjoy boxing, but of late I've been dismayed at the situation involving weights of boxers on the day of a fight. Recent fights (like Arturo Gatti-Joey Gamache) seem to be setting a bad precedent, or perhaps this is an ongoing condition of the times. In many fights, one participant is much heavier than his opponent, yet they had almost identical weights the day before the fight. The question is, why is the weigh-in performed the day before the fight? And what kind of championship fight is it when a specific weight is called for, and on the night of the fight, one fighter is one or two weight classes heavier?

This does not seem to bode well for the sport, especially in the lower weight classes. What good are all the ratings if the weight limit appears to be of no consequence?

LEN SEAMAN
Boca Raton, FL

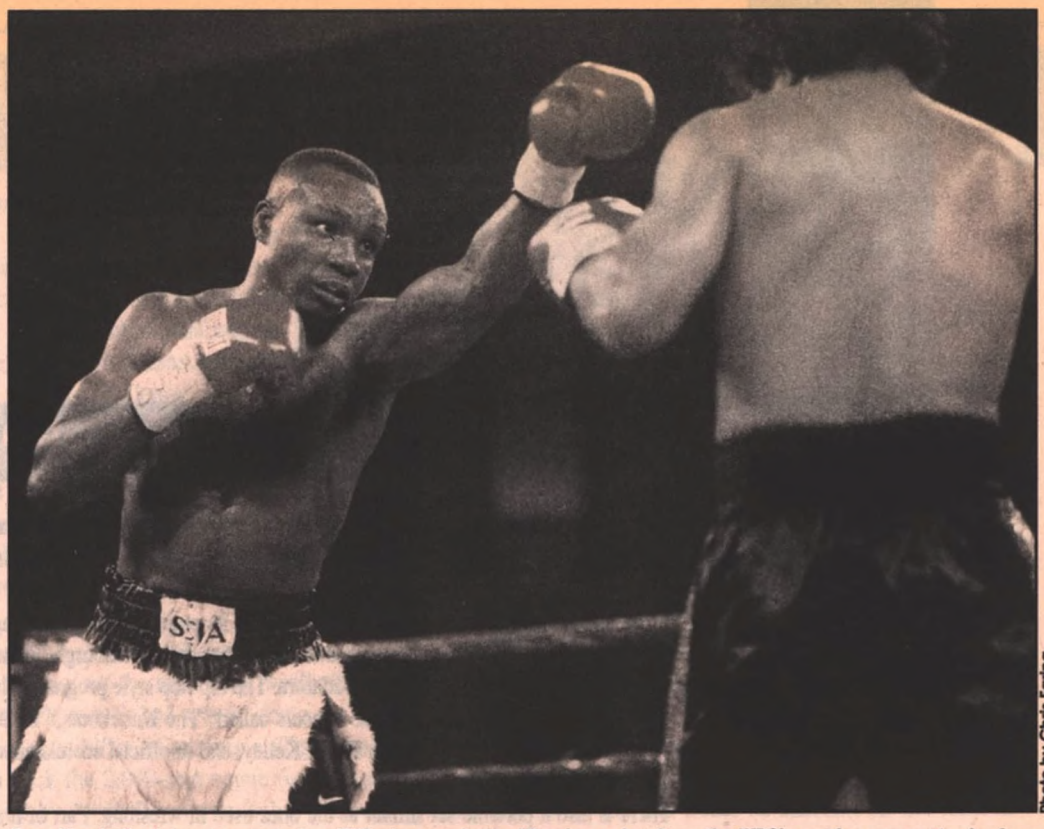


Photo by Chris Farina

Tony Marshall, pictured en route to a TKO win over Javier Altamirano, has been the WBC's number-one contender for a year. Reader Joe Lydon, who manages Marshall, says that his fighter is overdue for a title shot.

A LITTLE JUSTICE

I was delighted with your choice (and mine) of Paulie Ayala as THE RING's Fighter of the Year. However, as I looked over the past winners, I was a little discouraged. Of the 70 years in which the award has been handed out, 32 times it has gone to a heavyweight. I realize this is a span that has seen Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, and Rocky Marciano, who, together, have won 12 Fighter of the Year awards. But, honestly, Ingemar Johansson won twice and Roberto Duran never won. How about Jack Sharkey winning in 1932? Sure, Sharkey won the heavyweight title, but Kid Chocolate appeared in four world title bouts in two different weight classes, winning them all. It just makes me think that we were a little more biased toward the big guys. In any case, it was wonderful to see a great little guy like Ayala win.

ADAM SCHELLENBERG
Vancouver, British Columbia

TOUGH DECISION

I have no ax to grind, as I won both of my bets on the Erik Morales-Marco Antonio Barrera war, which I attended at Mandalay Bay. At the end of the bout, however, I thought it should have been either a draw or a Barrera win. It was not an easy fight to score; how does one score a round in which Morales dominates for 2½ minutes and then is rocked by Barrera in a toe-to-toe exchange in the final 30 seconds? Is it Barrera's round, Morales' round, or do you score the round even?

ROBERT MOHLER
San Francisco, CA

TIME FOR TONY

I am writing in reference to Tony Marshall, the WBC's number-one super welterweight contender. Tony has been the number-one contender for one year now, and it is time for him to fight for the world title. Tony earned his number-one status through hard work and many tough fights against the very best the division has to offer. He is well-known throughout the world and has appeared on television almost 30 times. His performance has always been exemplary and he's always in top shape.

How long must Tony wait for his dream? He deserves a shot at the title now!

JOE LYDON
Albany, NY

[Editor's note: Mr. Lydon is Marshall's manager.]

BEHIND "BIG DADDY"

He was a 1988 Olympic silver medalist. He became heavyweight champion of the world. In 1992, against Evander Holyfield, he gave us an all-time classic of skill and heart. Later, against Andrew Golota, he again showed heart and determination. I am talking, of course, about Riddick Bowe. Riddick, you have your fans in and out of the ring. Hang in there.

RICK POMMELLS
Edmonton, Alberta ■

ROUND ONE

ONE *NATION* UNDER A GROOVE

What do you get if you move *Boxing After Dark* from Saturday night to Saturday afternoon, mix in a jumbo portion of MTV, and then, to top it off, throw in a good-sized dollop of the WWF's *Raw Is War*?

HBO's *KO Nation*, that's what.

In an attempt to lure a younger demographic to its pugilistic programming, HBO launched its third boxing series on May 6, with a doubleheader emanating from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, headlined by the local hero, IBF lightweight titlist Paul Spadafora. The hip-hop style program is hosted by MTV personality Ed Lover, and features a trio of female dancers called "The Knockouts," DJ Max Glazer, blow-by-blow man Fran Charles, color commentator Kevin Kelley, and unofficial scorekeeper Julie Lederman (Harold's daughter).

There is also a portable set similar to the ones used in wrestling. Part of it serves as a stage for Lover and Glazer, while another section forms a giant entrance way from which the fighters emerge and make their way to the ring. Naturally, the *KO Nation* logo is plastered everywhere, including various parts of The Knockouts' anatomy.

Photo by Will Hart/HBO

Ed Lover hosts HBO's hip new boxing series

The program invites viewer participation through a series of questions that can be answered via e-mail. For instance, at the start of the show, fans were asked to select Spadafora's walk-in music (Busta Rhymes' "Tear The Roof Off" won by garnering 58 percent of the vote).

There was, however, one serious technical glitch. The microphone volume on the referees, the cornermen, and the crowd was so loud, it was virtually impossible to hear what Charles and Kelley were saying most of the time.

"It was human error," said *KO Nation* producer Ross Greenburg. "The audio person in the booth was listening to what he thought was a perfect mix, but it was not the mix that was going out over the airways. It threw a hand grenade into what was otherwise a pretty clean debut."

Of course, a fresh look and high-tech razzle-dazzle won't mean a damn to boxing fans if the fights aren't action packed. Fortunately, *KO Nation* got off to a rip-roaring start when undefeated heavyweights "Relentless" Lamon Brewster and Cliff "The Black Rhino" Etienne took turns trying to tear each another's heads off in a scorching opening round. The fight slowed down a bit after that, but remained entertaining throughout. The main event also turned out to be a pleasant surprise when challenger Mike Griffith, who dyed his hair orange for the occasion, gave Spadafora a much tougher time than anticipated *(see "Ringside Reports" on page 50 for details of both fights).*

The charismatic, big-voiced Lover was a good choice as host, though he might want to reconsider his "on the ropes and off the hook" tag-line. We'll have to wait until we can hear what they are saying before judging Charles and Kelley, but I have to agree with Greenburg that the former WBC featherweight champ has "tremendous potential" as an analyst.

Some older boxing fans may be turned off by the youth-oriented format, but boxing has to keep up with the changing times, and if *KO Nation* continues to televise bouts as competitive as the inaugural pairings, it should not only attract new fans to the Sweet Science, but also convince most of the old curmudgeons to tune in as well.

—Nigel Collins

HALF-EMPTY OR HALF-FILLED?

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Trucker Boyle is trying his hand at promoting

Now that he's been on both sides of the boxing business, Anthony Boyle believes promoting fights is definitely easier than appearing in them. The former fringe contender from Philadelphia made his first foray into the promotional end on May 2, co-promoting a card with veteran promoter J Russell Peltz at the Big O Center at Poor Henry's Brewery in North Philly to a modicum of success.

Boyle, 34, boxed professionally from 1985 to '95, starting his career as a junior featherweight and finishing as a lightweight. He runs a tow-truck company now, but wanted to try his hand at another venture.

Boyle, who plunged roughly $30,000 into the promotion, was still ironing out the numbers a week after the show, but felt comfortable that he had at least come out even financially—with the possibility of turning a slight profit. Boyle had hoped to pack the 2,000-seat venue for the card, which was headlined by 1996 Olympian Zahir Raheem. However, he got just under 1,000 spectators. Still, the undertaking may be worth pursuing again.

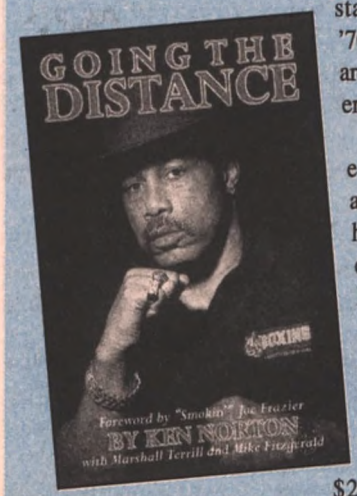
"I thought that everything worked out pretty well," Boyle said. "I don't know if I got spoiled or not, because everything went according to plan. In terms of attendance, I don't know if we got hurt by the Phillies, or the Flyers and Sixers being in the playoffs. I think the Phillies were playing against the Cincinnati Reds, and Ken Griffey Jr. was in town.

"But I definitely want to do something again. Finding someplace in the summer would be difficult, so we won't do anything until the fall. I'll tell you this: It's definitely harder fighting than promoting. It's nice going to weigh-ins eating and drinking something, rather than waiting around wondering if you're going to make weight."

—Joe Santoliquito

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

There is the widespread belief—particularly among those whose interest in boxing dates back to then—that the 1970s was the "Golden Era" in heavyweight history, illumined by George Foreman, Joe Frazier, Larry Holmes, Ken Norton, and, of course, Muhammad Ali. That is a very debatable proposition in itself, but there is little doubt about one thing: However they stacked up in the ring, those '70s heavyweights, as a whole, are mere lightweights in the literary arena.



Except for Foreman's entertaining and insightful autobiography, the '70s group has produced some dismal clinkers in that department. Frazier's autobiography was appalling, and Holmes' was only marginally better. Now comes Ken Norton, whose *Going The Distance* (Sports Publishing Inc., 215 pages, $22.95 hard cover), written with Marshall Terrill and Mike Fitzgerald, is a tirelessly cliched and very uneven account of the former WBC champion's life that presumably is meant to inspire, but, like Norton's championship itself (which was conferred only by a WBC press release), doesn't quite ring true.

The parts concerning Norton's biggest fights—the trilogy with Ali and the epic with Holmes—generally read like CompuBox printouts. Whole portions of his early career are left out completely. Two chapters are devoted to Norton's widely reported feud with his son, Ken Jr., the National Football League star, but it is never made clear what the discord was all about.

The automobile accident that almost killed Norton in 1986, and his painstaking comeback from its horrendous aftermath, are adequately covered. Considering what happened to him then, perhaps expecting more or better than this from Norton isn't fair or realistic.

"I think it's safe to say that I am still a tad bit vain," writes Norton. That much, at least, comes through loud and clear. Surely, though, there is more to the man than that; you just wouldn't know from his autobiography.

—Nick Pertzborn

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
4-15-00	Antonio Diaz KO 11 Ivan Robinson	HBO	jw	B+	B+	C+
Robinson can't break an egg at lightweight; what was he doing at junior welter?						
4-15-00	**Fernando Vargas W 12 Ike Quartey**	**HBO**	**IBF jm**	**A+**	**A+**	**B+**
Vargas superb in good fight that would have been great if Quartey had let his hands go more						
4-22-00	Montell Griffin W 12 Jose Luis Rivera	Show	lh	C	C	C-
Was holding this waltz in China supposed to make it interesting? It didn't work						
4-22-00	Andrew Golota KO 3 Marcus Rhode	Show	h	D	F	F
If this is the best Showtime can do, please cancel our subscription						
4-28-00	John Brown W 10 Juan Carlos Suarez	ESPN2	l	C	B-	C+
Another solid outing by the lightweight division's best second-tier fighter						
4-28-00	Dana Rosenblatt Tech. Draw 2 Jim Crawford	ESPN2	sm	C+	C	D
Think Vinny Pazienza was cheering somewhere when Rosenblatt's forehead opened up?						
4-28-00	Marcus Davis W 6 Tom Attardo	ESPN2	jm	D	B	B-
Proof that a couple of ordinary pugs can put on a pretty decent scrap						
4-29-00	Wladimir Klitschko KO 2 David Bostice	PPV	h	B-	C	C
It's true, this Klitschko is better than his brother; but what happens when someone hits back?						
4-29-00	Arturo Gatti KO 2 Eric Jakubowski	PPV	w	B	F	C
"Thunder" destroys another no-hoper while waiting for De La Hoya						
4-29-00	**Paul Ingle KO 11 Junior Jones**	**PPV**	**IBF f**	**B+**	**B+**	**A**
If Jones' legs were as strong as his will, he might've pulled this out; excellent fight						
4-29-00	**Lennox Lewis KO 2 Michael Grant**	**PPV**	**IBF/WBC h**	**A+**	**A**	**B**
How is it that Lewis can blow out a top contender and still look like an amateur doing it?						
5-5-00	J.C. Candelo KO 4 Mario Iribarren	ESPN2	jm	C	C+	C+
Candelo cuts Iribarren to ribbons, notches another impressive win						
5-5-00	Antwun Echols KO 7 Lionel Ortiz	ESPN2	m	B	C+	C+
Echols establishing himself as best middleweight contender out there; watch Joppy and Holmes avoid him						
5-6-00	Cliff Etienne W 10 Lamon Brewster	HBO	h	B+	A	A-
Upset! "The Black Rhino" pummels Brewster over 10 hard-fought rounds						
5-6-00	**Paul Spadafora Tech. Win 10 Mike Griffith**	**HBO**	**IBF l**	**A**	**C**	**C+**
Spadafora starting to look ordinary; Griffith no world-beater						
5-6-00	Danny Romero W 12 Jorge Munoz	Show	jf	B	C-	C+
Either Romero has completely lost his punch or someone shrunk Ray Mercer and taught him Spanish						
5-6-00	Johnny Tapia W 12 Javier Torres	Show	b	A-	D-	C+
The way Tapia keeps moving up in weight, you'd think Mark Johnson had been paroled						
5-12-00	Diobelys Hurtado W 12 Cosme Rivera	ESPN2	jw	C+	C	D-
Hurtado boxes way to easy win over passive Rivera						
5-12-00	John-John Molina W 10 Emanuel Burton	ESPN2	l	C+	B-	B
Molina's superior work rate gets him the nod in good, hotly contested fight						
5-13-00	**Bernard Hopkins W 12 Syd Vanderpool**	**HBO**	**IBF m**	**A**	**B-**	**D+**
After good start, Vanderpool decides winning isn't everything; not getting knocked out is						
5-13-00	**Roy Jones KO 11 Richard Hall**	**HBO**	**Unified lh**	**A+**	**D-**	**B**
Only Jones could make such a mismatch entertaining; enjoy him now—you'll miss him when he's gone						

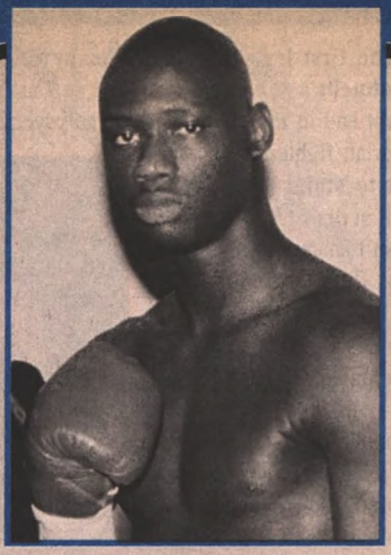
Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox SportsNet; Uni—Univision; Tel—Telemundo

TARVER TAKES A STAND



Tarver: Victim of racism?

Three blacks and a man of Asian-Indian descent sit down in a restaurant for dinner. Before they can be served, however, they have to plunk down a cash deposit or give a credit card imprint.

If Antonio Tarver and his friends are proved correct in a court of law, then he may not need to fight Roy Jones after all. Tarver—rated first at light heavyweight by the IBF and next in line for a shot at the undisputed title, provided he gets by Eric Harding in his next fight—and three friends recently filed a civil suit against the Sheraton Inn/Conference Center in Tampa, Florida, for a January 30, 1998, incident. They are asking for punitive and compensatory damages that could rival the value of a payday with Jones. With the jury trial not set to begin until late-2001, the exact dollar amount they're seeking hasn't been determined yet, but according to Tarver's attorney Todd Long, it could range anywhere from $50,000 to seven figures.

"These people had an opportunity to correct the wrong they've done," said Tarver, who said they were about to have dinner before heading to the Ice Palace to watch William Joppy tangle with Julio Cesar Green. "Hopefully, we can make an example of people like this. I got emotional real quick. I was humiliated. These people singled us out. Just because we went in with a pair of jeans and our hats flapped back doesn't mean we're thugs."

In the meantime, Tarver, 16-0 (13), still is preparing for his box-off with Harding and vows he won't let this latest distraction get in the way of his ultimate goal: Jones.

"Roy is milking that title and he's not trying to fight anybody with a chance to beat him," said Tarver. "I'm going to knock out Eric Harding, and then what?"

—Johnnie Whitehead

BRILLIANCE IN THE RING

Rosalie Parker is used to scoring big. She's a *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard; she's held distinguished jobs in the financial world; she's landed a spot at a prestigious graduate school. She's also the reigning USA Boxing women's flyweight champion, having outpointed Heather Percival 23-3 in the 2000 finals.

Parker is not your average Ivy League investment banker boxing champ. She grew up in Wayland, Massachusetts, the child of two Jewish doctors who also went to Harvard. (They took their medical degrees at Johns Hopkins, the same university where Parker will soon study international affairs.) She joined the Harvard Boxing Club to keep in shape during the rugby off-season, and there she trained with the venerable Tommy Rawson. Although Coach Rawson never let her spar with the men, it wasn't long before he had her teaching the basics to all of the new guys.

She has since sparred with plenty of men at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, all of whom were bigger than the 5'2", 112-pound Parker. And she's getting a more diverse education than a lot of other Crimson students got. "You certainly learn to keep a nice, tight defense," Parker laughed. "You learn to keep your hands up."

Photo by Lydia Regnault

Parker has brains and brawn

She describes herself as more of a puncher than a boxer, and her best punch is the straight right. "I think my best thing is that I'm a hard puncher," she said. "I'm working on my speed and on being more relaxed in the ring."

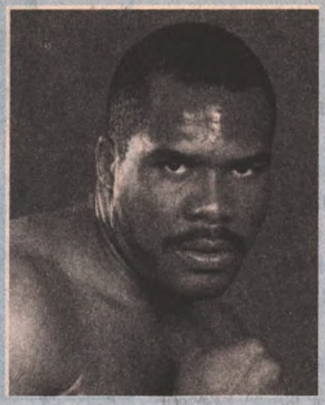
Parker admits that, despite her prowess, her parents are less than thrilled. "They support me in general," she said, "but they wish I would choose any other sport." Parker won't back down, however, pointing to her sister, who broke multiple bones playing lacrosse for Harvard—while the champ has never been injured or knocked down.

As successful as she has been in school, at work, and in the ring, the attractive 25-year-old acknowledges a less-than-ideal social life due to the amount of time she spends in the gym. Still, Parker intends to continue boxing. She plans to defend her title and hopes eventually to represent the United States in the Women's World Championship next year.

—William J. Gorta

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

The first leg of unbeaten heavyweight contender **Ike Ibeabuchi's** sexual-assault trial in Las Vegas came to an abrupt end in mid-April when three psychiatrists declared the Nigerian fighter not competent to stand trial at that point in time. "Mr. Ibeabuchi doesn't share the same reality as the rest of us in this courtroom," said **Dr. Thomas Bittker**, one of the three doctors involved in the two-hour interview session. Ibeabuchi was ordered to a Nevada mental health facility for further evaluation ... You may think **Mike Tyson** has been overpaid for the work he's done in the ring recently, but that's nothing compared to the easy money he's getting without stepping through the ropes. The two-time former heavyweight champ reportedly received a $20-million out-of-court settlement back in March from the law firm of Sidley & Austin. Tyson had filed suit against them for not adequately protecting his interests, since the firm was representing both Tyson and his former promoter, **Don King**, while the fighter was still under contract to King ... Former junior welterweight and welterweight champion **Meldrick Taylor** was arrested in early-April on charges of attempted rape and indecent assault on a woman who is the mother of two of his children. Taylor was also charged with probation violation, as he had three weeks remaining on his two-year probation for a 1997 insurance fraud conviction ... In one of the more bizarre incidents on the "Outside The Ropes" police blotter, former IBF junior fly champion **Will Grigsby** was wanted by Florida police on charges of assaulting his girlfriend, mistreating animals, and staging dog fights on her property. Thirteen injured dogs reportedly had to be put to sleep ... A significant behind-the-scenes shakeup became official just before we went to press, as HBO Sports Senior Vice President **Lou DiBella** confirmed the rumors and announced his resignation after an 11-year tenure with the cable network. The outspoken DiBella is credited with much of the excellent matchmaking and sports programming on HBO in recent years. We'll have more on this major story in a future issue ... A couple of book alerts: A new edition of Pierce Egan's celebrated *Boxiana II* (487 pages, hardcover), originally published in 1818, is now available via mail order. Send $50 (U.S.), which also covers shipping and handling, to Nicol Island Publishing, 288 Mill Rd., Suite B-14, Toronto, Ontario M9C 4X7, Canada. Volume III is due late this year. Also, Thomas Hauser's excellent *The Black Lights* is now available in paperback. Both reprints come highly recommended.



Ibeabuchi: Trial delayed for evaluation

DiBella: Packing his bags

THE PUNCHLINES

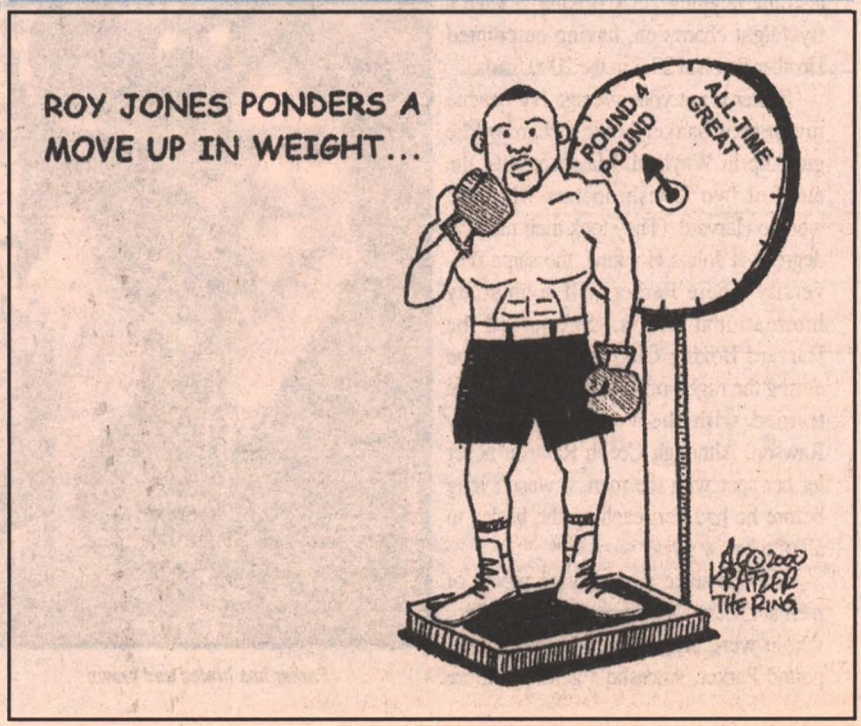
"It has long been said that one doesn't have to be smart to be a fighter. [Floyd] Mayweather is living proof of that."

—Kevin Iole, in the *Las Vegas Review Journal*

"We want to bring in younger fans and make boxing last forever."

—Oscar De La Hoya, on the idea behind HBO's new series *KO Nation*, shortly before deciding not to be the show's color analyst

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **ROY JONES** Light Heavyweight
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Junior Middleweight
3. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Welterweight
4. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Junior Lightweight
5. **SHANE MOSLEY** Welterweight
6. **MARK JOHNSON** Junior Bantamweight
7. **RICARDO LOPEZ** Junior Flyweight
8. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Middleweight
9. **STEVE JOHNSTON** Lightweight
10. **NASEEM HAMED** Featherweight

(For period ended May 21, 2000)

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Michael Grant's second-round kayo loss to undisputed champion Lennox Lewis plunges him from third to sixth. Andrew Golota, who hasn't had a significant fight since losing to Grant, slides from sixth to eighth. Oleg Maskaev jumps from seventh to fourth on the strength of his TKO of Derrick Jefferson (10th last issue), who departs. Hasim Rahman is aboard at number nine, thanks to his TKO of Corrie Sanders. David Tua also advances from fourth to third, while David Izon slips one spot from ninth to 10th to accommodate Rahman's placement.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Graciano Rocchigiani (fourth last issue) is gone following his stoppage loss to Dariusz Michalczewski, who retains the number-two position. Richard Hall (10th last issue) exits due to his emphatic TKO loss to Roy Jones. Replacing Rocchigiani and Hall are Greg Wright and Derrick Harmon, at ninth and 10th, respectively.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Glenn Catley's kayo of Markus Beyer to win the WBC belt rockets him from 10th to third, while Beyer falls from fourth to eighth. Joe Calzaghe (third last issue) drops to fourth.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Antwun Echols (fifth last issue) and Hassine Cherifi (formerly fourth) trade places due to Echols' greater activity. Robert McCracken (seventh last issue) departs due to his stoppage loss to WBC titlist Keith Holmes. Rito Ruvalcaba (10th last issue) also exits following his first-round kayo loss to WBA boss William Joppy. Filling the void are Brian Barbosa and Andrew Council, at ninth and 10th, respectively.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Ahmed Katejev (eighth last issue) is gone because of his kayo loss to Daniel Santos. This pushes Thomas Damgaard (ninth last issue) and Derrell Coley (10th last issue) up to eighth and ninth, respectively. In at 10th is Andrew Lewis.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: As he's now fighting at 147 pounds, Arturo Gatti (eighth last issue) departs. Gatti's removal elevates Reggie Green (ninth last issue) to eighth and Teddy Reid (10th last issue) to ninth. Hector Camacho Jr. debuts at 10th.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Ivan Robinson's TKO loss to Antonio Diaz at 140 pounds also hurt him at lightweight, and the Philadelphia veteran falls from fifth to seventh. Robinson's demotion lifts Gilberto Serrano (sixth last issue) to fifth, and Artur Grigorian (seventh last issue) to sixth. Streaking John-John Molina is fighting at 135 pounds again, and looked good enough beating Emanuel Burton to re-enter the rankings at number nine, forcing Victoriano Sosa (ninth last issue) down to 10th and Billy Schwer (formerly 10th) out of the ratings.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Joel Casamayor stopped Jongkwon Baek (third last issue) to win the WBA title and enters at number three. Baek slides to fifth. John Brown (10th last issue) is bumped to make room for Casamayor.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Guty Espadas crashes the rankings at number four by capturing the vacant WBC title with a technical win over Luisito Espinosa (fifth last issue). Espinosa exits.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Julio Gamboa (seventh last issue) is now campaigning as a 115-pounder and been removed. Jorge Lacierva enters at 10th, and Gamboa's exit thrusts Cuauhtemoc Gomez (eighth last issue), Johnny Bredahl (previously ninth), and Adan Vargas (formerly 10th) up one spot each.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

FLYWEIGHTS: Malcolm Tunacao came out of nowhere to oust WBC champ Medgoen Toyota-Thailand via seventh-round knockout and claim the second spot. Medgoen (second last issue) falls to fifth. David Guerault (10th last issue) leaves to make room for Tunacao.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No changes.

POUND-FOR-POUND: As his career bogs down in disputes with his father Floyd Sr., promoter Top Rank, and TV network HBO, Floyd Mayweather (third last issue) dips to fourth. He is overtaken by Oscar De La Hoya (fourth last issue). ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended May 21, 2000

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Hasim Rahman returns to the heavyweight ratings at number nine

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *36-1-1 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *36-4-1*
3. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *35-1*
4. **OLEG MASKAEV** Staten Island, NY *20-2*
5. **MIKE TYSON** Catskill, NY *47-3*
6. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *31-1*
7. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *31-1*
8. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *35-4*
9. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD *33-2*
10. **DAVID IZON** Pensacola, FL *25-3*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Puerto Rico *37-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Oxnard, CA *19-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **DAVID REID** Philadelphia, PA *14-1*
4. **IKE QUARTEY** Ghana *34-2-1*
5. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO** Spain *49-4 (WBC Champ)*
6. **HARRY SIMON** Namibia *19-0*
7. **WINKY WRIGHT** St. Petersburg, FL *39-3*
8. **KEITH MULLINGS** Brooklyn, NY *16-6-1*
9. **BRONCO McKART** Monroe, MI *41-2*
10. **TONY MARSHALL** Albany, NY *34-7-6*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED** England *34-0*
2. **FRED NORWOOD** St. Louis, MO *36-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **PAUL INGLE** England *23-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **GUTY ESPADAS** Mexico *32-2 (WBC Champ)*
5. **CESAR SOTO** Mexico *53-8-2*
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico *31-2*
7. **JULIO PABLO CHACON** Argentina *36-0*
8. **MANUEL MEDINA** Mexico *57-11*
9. **MBULELO BOTILE** South Africa *26-1*
10. **JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ** Mexico *20-2*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** Mexico *49-3*
2. **ERIK MORALES** Mexico *36-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **BONES ADAMS** Henderson, KY *39-3-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **LEHLO LEDWABA** South Africa *30-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH** Las Vegas, NV *23-3*
6. **NESTOR GARZA** Mexico *38-2*
7. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ** Mexico *26-1-1*
8. **ANTONIO CERMENO** Venezuela *37-3*
9. **MANNY PACQUAIO** Philippines *27-2*
10. **MICHAEL BRODIE** England *28-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN** Cincinnati, OH *20-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **PAULIE AYALA** Ft. Worth, TX *30-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA** Albuquerque, NM *48-1-2*
4. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM** Thailand *26-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **NANA KONADU** Ghana *40-4-1*
6. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO** Colombia *42-2*
7. **CUAUHTEMOC GOMEZ** Mexico *47-7*
8. **JOHNNY BREDAHL** Denmark *45-2*
9. **ADAN VARGAS** Mexico *33-2-1*
10. **JORGE LACIERVA** Mexico *15-3-3*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ**
   Germany 31-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **VASSILIY JIROV**
   Kazakhstan 25-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   France 42-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England 37-12-1
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ**
   Argentina 29-3-1
6. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Pensacola, FL 32-5-1
7. **JAMES TONEY**
   Las Vegas, NV 59-4-2
8. **CARL THOMPSON**
   England 26-5
9. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND 45-3
10. **SAUL MONTANA**
    Mexico 33-7

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL 42-1 (WBC/WBA/IBF Champ)
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany 42-0
3. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX 40-6-1
4. **MICHAEL NUNN**
   Davenport, IA 54-4
5. **ERIC HARDING**
   Philadephia, PA 18-0-1
6. **ANTONIO TARVER**
   Orlando, FL 16-0
7. **DAVID TELESCO**
   Port Chester, NY 23-3
8. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
   Chicago, IL 39-3
9. **GREG WRIGHT**
   Bronx, NY 18-5-2
10. **DERRICK HARMON**
    Chicago, IL 20-1

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **SVEN OTTKE**
   Germany 18-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **BRUNO GIRARD**
   France 37-3-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **GLENN CATLEY**
   England 26-3 (WBC Champ)
4. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales 28-0
5. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA 35-6
6. **BYRON MITCHELL**
   Ozark, AL 20-1-1
7. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX 37-6
8. **MARKUS BEYER**
   Germany 18-1
9. **FRANKIE LILES**
   N. Hollywood, CA 32-2
10. **RICHIE WOODHALL**
    England 26-2

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA 37-2-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. 30-1-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **KEITH HOLMES**
   Washington, D.C. 35-2 (WBC Champ)
4. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA 24-3-1
5. **HASSINE CHERIFI**
   France 30-3-1
6. **ARMAND KRAJNC**
   Sweden 23-0
7. **DAVEY HILTON**
   Canada 38-1-3
8. **BERT SCHENK**
   Germany 23-0
9. **BRIAN BARBOSA**
   Passaic, NJ 28-4
10. **ANDREW COUNCIL**
    Washington, D.C. 30-7-3

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA 32-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **JAMES PAGE**
   Pittsburg, CA 25-3 (WBA Champ)
3. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 34-0
4. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 31-0
5. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI 50-3-1
6. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
   Australia 26-0-1
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico 30-4-1
8. **THOMAS DAMGAARD**
   Denmark 19-0
9. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD 34-2-2
10. **ANDREW LEWIS**
    Guyana 19-0-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 24-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. 46-2 (WBA Champ)
3. **TERRONN MILLETT**
   St. Louis, MO 22-1-1
4. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY 22-0 (IBF Champ)
5. **RANDALL BAILEY**
   Miami, FL 21-0
6. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 31-2
7. **MICKY WARD**
   Lowell, MA 35-9
8. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD 32-4
9. **TEDDY REID**
   Washington, D.C. 16-3-1
10. **HECTOR CAMACHO JR**
    Puerto Rico 27-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 30-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN 32-4-1
3. **PAUL SPADAFORA**
   Pittsburgh, PA 30-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico 37-3-1
5. **GILBERTO SERRANO**
   Venezuela 20-4-1 (WBA Champ)
6. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN**
   Uzbekistan 29-0
7. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA 29-4
8. **JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX 40-4-2
9. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico 51-6
10. **VICTORIANO SOSA**
    Dominican Republic 24-2-1

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI 23-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA 31-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
   Miami, FL 21-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **ROBERTO GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA 32-1
5. **JONGKWON BAEK**
   South Korea 21-1-1
6. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia 12-2-1
7. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea 27-3-1
8. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX 30-1
9. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil 25-0
10. **GOYO VARGAS**
    Mexico 40-7-1

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 38-1
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea 18-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **HIDEKI TODAKA**
   Japan 17-2-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela 33-8-3
5. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines 40-3-2
6. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand 22-1-1
7. **RATANACHAI VORAPIN**
   Thailand 36-4
8. **JOEL LUNA-ZARATE**
   Mexico 33-3-2
9. **ERIC MOREL**
   Madison, WI 24-0
10. **SAMSON TOYOTA-THAILAND**
    Thailand 35-0

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **SORNPICHAI SINGWANGCHA**
   Thailand 19-0 (WBA Champ)
2. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines 11-0 (WBC Champ)
3. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia 24-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand 37-2
5. **MEDGOEN TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand 20-1
6. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela 32-7-1
7. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 38-1
8. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela 27-5
9. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 42-3
10. **ISIDRO GARCIA**
    Los Angeles, CA 20-1-1

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico 48-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **YOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea 21-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **PICHIT C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 22-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua 26-1-1
5. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand 42-3-1
6. **HAWK MAKEPULA**
   South Africa 17-0
7. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa 50-11-2
8. **MELCHOR COB-CASTRO**
   Mexico 58-6-4
9. **WILL GRIGSBY**
   St. Paul, MN 14-2-1
10. **JORGE ARCE**
    Mexico 22-3-1

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa 15-2-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 22-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 41-1-1
4. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela 12-1-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **WANDEE SINGWANGCHA**
   Thailand 25-4
6. **SONGKRAM PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 20-2-1
7. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Columbia 32-2
8. **JOSE GARCIA**
   Colombia 22-5-1
9. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines 28-5-1
10. **DANIEL REYES**
    Colombia 24-0

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NEW FACES

SCOTT HARRISON

Featherweight

By Eric Raskin

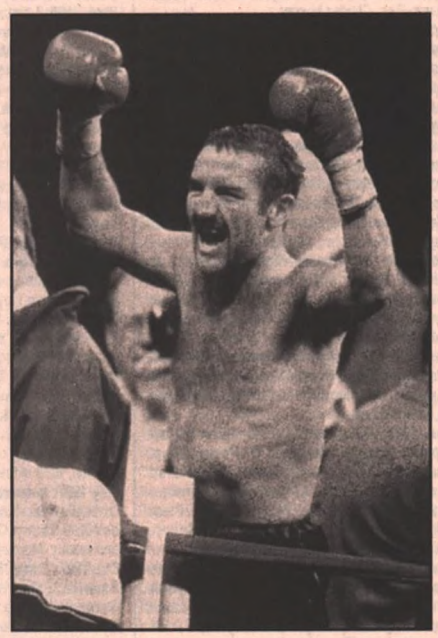
PRO RECORD

1996		
Oct. 7	Eddie Sica, London	KO 2
1997		
Jan. 11	Peter Buckley, London	W 4
March 25	David Morris, London	W 4
Oct. 4	Miguel Matthews, London	KO by 4
Dec. 16	Stephane Fernandez, Dunkirk, France	D 6
1998		
Jan. 31	Peter Buckley, London	W 4
June 9	Carl Allen, Hull, England	KO 6
Oct. 17	Rakhim Mingaleev, Manchester, England	W 8
1999		
March 6	John Matthews, London	KO 4
July 10	Smith Odoom, London	W 12
2000		
Jan. 24	Patrick Mullings, Glasgow, Scotland	W 12
April 29	Tracy Patterson, New York City	W 10

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
12	10	1	1	3

Standing in the very arena in Glasgow in which he had won the Scottish lightweight title 19 years earlier, you'd have thought Peter Harrison might have felt a sense of nostalgia watching his son, Scott, go after the British Commonwealth featherweight title before a throng of screaming hometown fans. On February 23, 1981, the elder Harrison decisioned Willie Booth at the St. Andrew's Sporting Club for by far the biggest victory of his brief 7-6 (1) career. On January 24, 2000, it was young Scott's turn, as, with his father in his corner, he took the regional title from Patrick Mullings with a hard-earned 12-round decision at the same tiny venue. It's the kind of experience that should bring tears to a father's eyes. Right?

"I didn't really think much of it, to tell you the truth. I'm not that type of person," said Peter in his rather thick Scottish brogue. "I've been a coach longer than I was a boxer. I don't reflect on my own career much or get too nostalgic. I would have rather had the fight in another arena, a bigger one, so they could get more of Scott's supporters in."



Dad got his wish in his son's next fight, as the Harrisons flew to America to fight at Madison Square Garden in front of a crowd of more than 17,000—up slightly from the 750 who crowded into St. Andrew's—on the undercard of the Lennox Lewis-Michael Grant heavyweight title tilt. What's more, the 23-year-old Harrison made a name for himself by handily beating a former world champion, Tracy Patterson, easily the biggest name on his 10-1-1 (3) resume.

The fading but still dangerous Patterson set the pace early, taking the first round with an aggressive attack that appeared designed

(Continued on page 57)

Photos by Ezra Shaw/Allsport

Harrison fires a jab at former world champ Tracy Patterson

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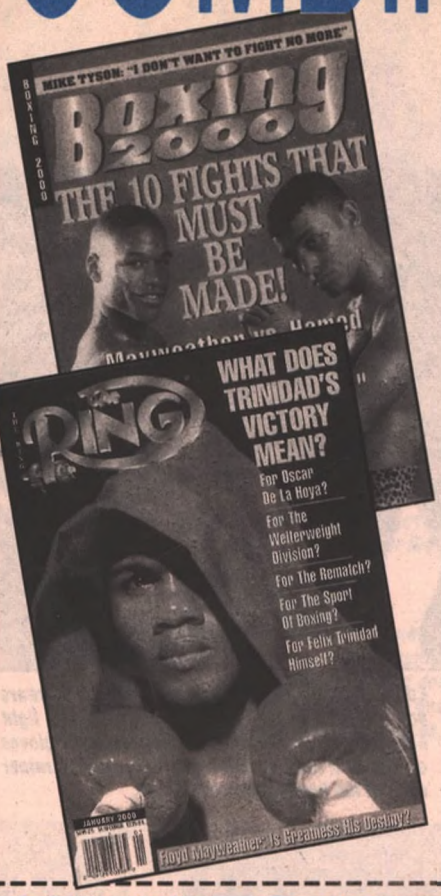

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CAMERA CLICKS

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

You may not recognize the face, but regular readers of THE RING should at least be familiar with the name of the sharply attired fella tangling with Larry Holmes and Joe Frazier. It's photographer Marty Rosengarten, seen here landing three shots at once: one on Holmes, one on Frazier, and one with the camera he had set on a timer.

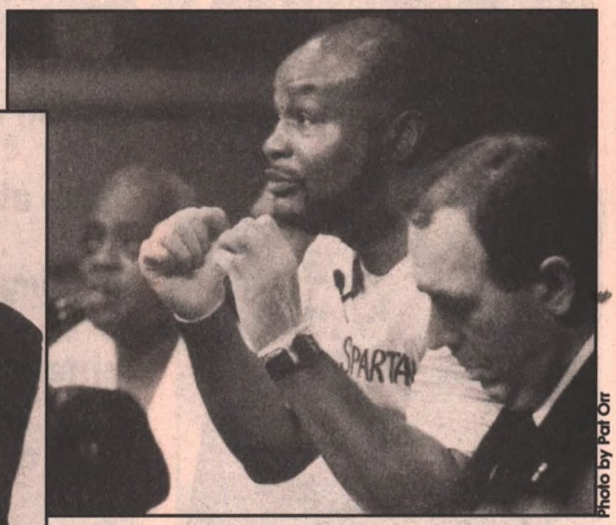


Photo by Pat Orr

Eddie Mustafa Muhammad may be a few years and a few pounds removed from his days as light heavyweight champion, but he still has his gloves on—even if they are the rubber gloves of a trainer and not the leather ones of a boxer.

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Shane, look out behind you! Posing in front of a topiary replica of King Kong, Sugar Shane Mosley promised there would be no monkey business in his fight with Oscar De La Hoya. Then he pounded his chest a few times.

Photo by Pat Orr

You know how a mother's voice can sometimes just soothe a child to sleep? That appears to have been the case here, as Jacqui Frazier-Lyde's youngest son, John Joseph Lyde, caught a little shut-eye at the press conference following Mom's win over Wanda Gamble in April.

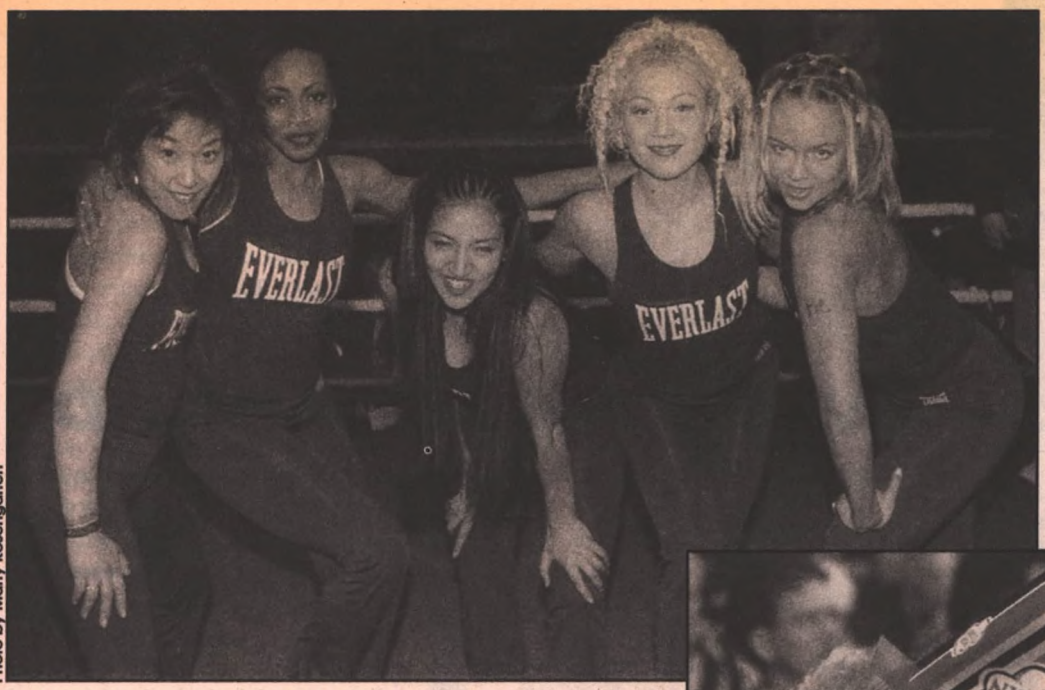


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

We're running out of ways to tell you that we enjoy running pictures of round card girls, but these ladies pretty much speak for themselves anyway.

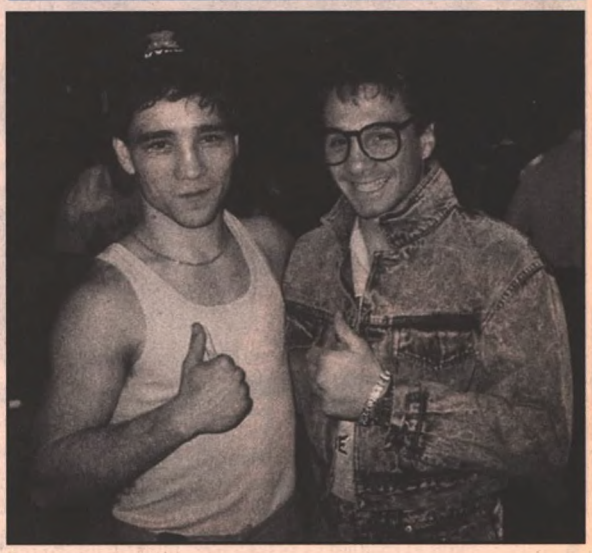
Photo by Ray Bailey

Unable to think up a catch-phrase on par with Michael Buffer's "Let's get ready to rumble," Mark Beiro has instead adopted the gimmick of doing his ring announcing with his face buried deep in a box of popcorn. Make sure to wipe the butter off your glasses, Mark.

Photo by Pat Orr

Smokin' Joe Frazier's not afraid to meet a man on his home turf, as evidenced by this photo of the ex-heavyweight champion squaring off against Billy Backus in the former welterweight king's hometown, Canastota, New York. Backus isn't quite as mobile as he used to be, but he now sports a granite chin.

NOSTALGIA CORNER



The enmity between lightweight rivals Greg Haugen and Vinny Pazienza in the '80s was well-documented ... but was it for real? Haugen and a rather nerdy Paz look awfully chummy in this photo from their younger days—unless they were merely getting ready to thumb each other in the eye.

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

TAKEN FOR GRANT-ED

That wasn't the A train rumbling beneath Madison Square Garden, it was the vibration felt all the way down to the foundation when 6'7", 250-pound Michael Grant hit the floor for the final time against Lennox Lewis. From Muhammad Ali being deposited tassels over teakettle by a Joe Frazier left hook to Mike Weaver having his upset hopes and his nerve impulses short-circuited by a Larry Holmes uppercut, the current version of the Garden has a history of boxing big men taking picturesque falls.

None of the crash victims, however, has been as big as Grant. For a few moments before Arthur Mercante Jr. counted Grant out, you weren't sure if the challenger was going to have to be rescued by his cornermen, the referee, or some tree-hugging environmentalist who couldn't bear to see the heavyweight sequoia cut down so close to Earth Day. (Timmm-berrrr!)

This battle for the linear crown was dubbed "Two Big," but it was over too quickly and was too one-sided. Too bad. But, hey, it happens. You won't hear me second-guess the decision to match the minimally tested Grant with the heavyweight ruler. The division has been frustratingly gridlocked for years, with any guy not named Lewis, Tyson, or Holyfield relegated to punching out tuneup foe after tuneup foe and trying to maintain a relatively meaningless world rating. Grant was undefeated new blood that had been touted as a future titlist. And a crack at the established Lewis, not a matchup with someone like John Ruiz for a vacant crown, was the respectable and admirable path for him to take.

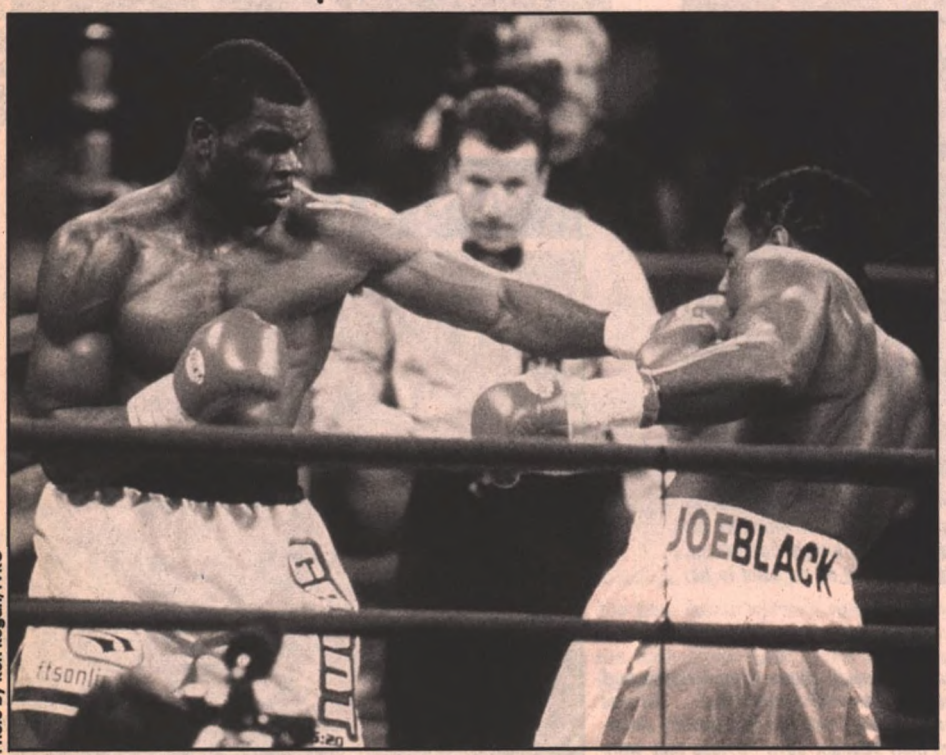


Photo by Ken Regan/TVKO

Grant did the right thing by taking the fight to Lewis

Much of what has passed for "insight" in the aftermath of Lewis-Grant has made me shake my head and roll my eyes like a pug who just tasted a haymaker he didn't see coming. Even by boxing standards, where 20/20 hindsight is considered normal ring vision for a journalist, a lot of the things that have been said and written are just plain stupid. For instance ...

"Grant fought a dumb fight": Heaven forbid if, these days, a challenger who believes in himself actually comes out and takes the battle to the champion. Judging by much of the postfight reaction, you'd have thought Grant's early aggression was akin to his attempting a three-meter springboard dive into a pool with no water. Well, excuse me, but that wasn't Sonny Liston in Comiskey Park or George Foreman in Kingston, Jamaica, that Grant was attacking.

Lewis has been a traditionally slow starter, as evidenced by his second-round knockout loss to Oliver McCall, his early rattling at the hands of Shannon Briggs, and the Briton having scored only one stoppage (of flaky Andrew Golota) before the fourth round in his previous 15 bouts. Though Lewis refused to admit it, Grant hurt him with a right hand in the opening moments. The challenger's problem wasn't his attacking strategy, it was a weak chin and poor footwork that left him off-balance and vulnerable to punishing counters whenever he missed his bombs.

Would Grant have had a better chance if he'd boxed patiently, thus allowing Lewis to establish one of the game's best jabs and launch long right crosses from the outside? Of course not. Grant gave himself the best shot at pulling off an upset. He just didn't execute—and nearly got executed as a result.

"Lewis shouldn't have been stripped of the WBA title": Like we needed everyone to go on the record with this gem. How could anyone who has covered boxing for more than a half-hour not have expected this? What *was* surprising was that, following his November defeat of Holyfield in their title-unification tilt, Lewis was actually able to leave the ring and walk back to his locker room without being stripped of at least one belt en route. That he held all three titles for five months is truly remarkable.

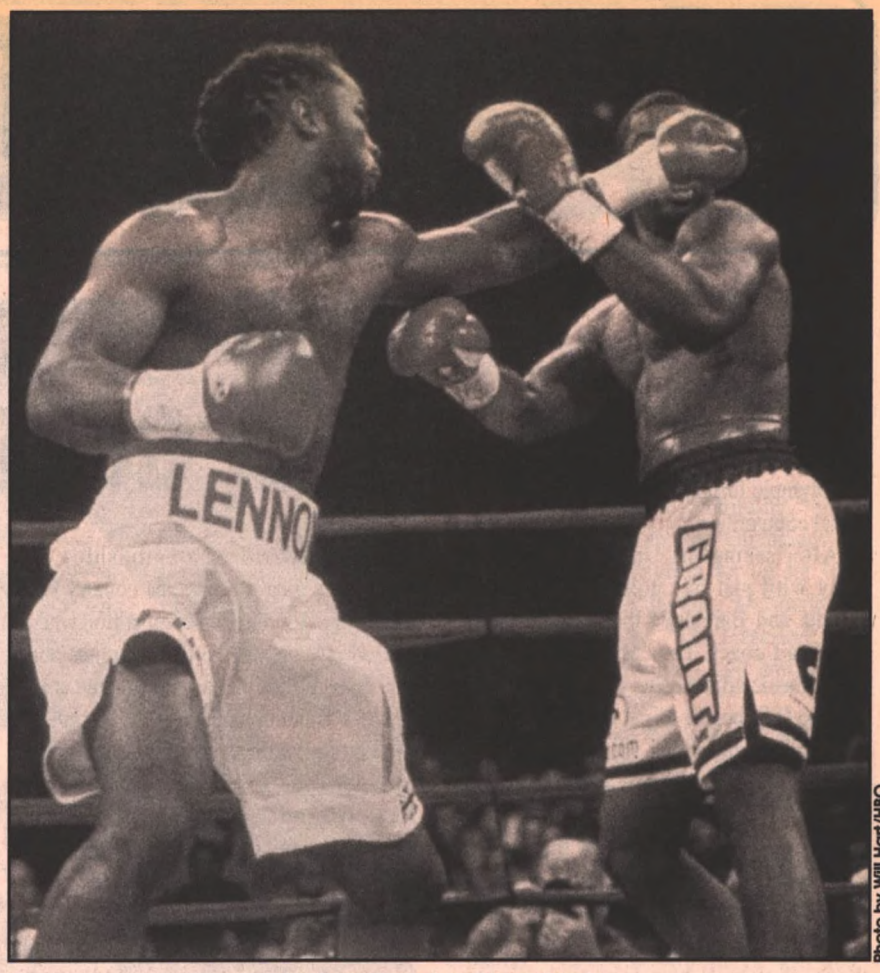


Photo by Will Hart/HBO

Lewis may never look this good again

For a while there, the WBA couldn't even make up its mind if it wanted the undeserving Henry Akinwande or the undeserving Ruiz to be its mandatory contender. (As if there's really a difference. You say tomato can, I say to-mah-to can. Tomato, to-mah-to, let's call the whole thing off.) In theory, mandatory title defenses are a great idea because they prevent a champion from ducking top competition. The WBA's tortured heavyweight ratings, however, are a prime example of why the idea doesn't work in practice and is too often a detriment to the game.

Three cheers for Lewis when he says, "I don't care what they say, I'm still undisputed. Belts are won in the ring." Nonetheless, his trophy case is still a little less crowded than it should be. And yet, no matter how many times these alphabet stripteases take place, we find the hype machine working in overdrive whenever a "title unification" bout is scheduled. "LEWIS-HOLYFIELD FOR ALL THREE BELTS!" the headlines and fight posters screamed, even though everyone knew damn well the title probably wouldn't stay unified through the winner's first defense.

"Lewis is a young 34, and he can keep getting better": No he can't. TVKO analyst Foreman's claim that Lewis can fight until he's 45 came from so far out of left field that the third baseman had to run out onto the outfield grass to take the throw. Lewis will turn 35 on September 2 and, taking nothing away from his important victory, he showed nothing to indicate that his skills are suddenly improving.

The champion beat Grant as much by taking advantage of the challenger's shortcomings as by imposing his own attack. Grant's constant ducking and lunging put him right in the path of Lewis' killer right uppercut. And Grant's inferior chin and lack of survival tactics left him at a big disadvantage in a battle of bangers. It also didn't hurt Lewis that Mercante, and not recently retired disciplinarian Mills Lane, was the third man in the ring. Mercante let Lewis get away with pulling down on Grant's head. On two of the four knockdowns, the second and the fourth, Lewis was illegally holding and hitting.

What Lewis did impress me with was with his ability to finish the wounded Grant. In too many previous outings—McCall II, Holyfield I, Akinwande—Lewis has inexplicably lacked the meanness and killer instinct a fighter with his record almost always has. Perhaps the champion is now starting to realize that history looks kindly on only those heavyweight kings who leave behind a trail of prone bodies and a library of fight films rated R for excessive violence. Perhaps he, unlike broadcaster Foreman, realizes that the time frame for making a lasting impression is a brief one when you're approaching 35 and your name isn't Jersey Joe Walcott.

Or maybe Lewis is determined to show these young guys—David Tua be forewarned—that the days of Bruce Seldon, Frank Bruno, and Frans Botha are long over. That—sorry, kids—not everyone in the heavyweight division is entitled to 15 minutes of reign. ■

THE 2000 U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM

Well-Prepared For A Gold Rush

By D.E. Thomas

This won't be your father's Olympic boxing competition at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia. Massive changes have been made in the Olympic format, from qualifying to the actual competition.

After seeing the United States walk away with just one gold medal in both Atlanta and Barcelona the last two times out, head coach Tom Mustin has made some drastic adjustments of his own to see that the U.S. begins to get back on track to dominating the world scene in a way it hasn't since winning five gold medals in Montreal in 1976. For the first time ever, boxers have had to do more than make their national teams to qualify to compete in Sydney, with regional competitions held around the globe to narrow the field. Once there, they will box four two-minute rounds instead of the traditional format of three three-minute rounds.

When the changes were announced, doomsayers predicted that America would have a tough time getting more than a handful of competitors into the Olympic competition. The U.S. got an easier path once it was decided that the Cubans, now firmly established as the world's top team, would get to send their entire team without going through qualifying. That meant that the U.S. didn't have to go through Havana's finest, which had a lot to do with the U.S. qualifying boxers in all 12 weight classes.

"That was everybody's concern, but I told them from the very beginning we would get 12," said Mustin, a 32-year veteran of the amateur coaching ranks from Tacoma, Washington. "There were enough qualifiers that we would get everybody in the way we had competed against the Americas, except for Cuba."

As soon as the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta concluded, the nation's amateur boxing authorities began to revamp the program. America won three gold medals at the '99 World Championships in Houston, the most winners the country has claimed in that bi-annual competition since '86. Considering that the U.S. won just one world championship in a span of three consecutive competitions dating back to 1993, that accomplishment alone is somewhat astounding.

"We changed the way we do our roadwork, emphasized weight training, concentrated more on defense and getting your hands up, staying in the middle of the ring where all the judges have a clear view," Mustin said. "All they score [at the international level] is hard shots. There's been an adjustment in what the team and the training is doing.

"It's just a total change in philosophy, the U.S. team and the coaches' approach it. We had to adjust to them. They weren't going to adjust to us."

Mustin points to two super-talented members of the 1996 U.S. team who fell short of gold medal expectations—Fernando Vargas and Floyd Mayweather.

"The reason they lost was they gave away cheap points getting caught with their hands down," Mustin said. "We do a lot of defense drills now."

Al Mitchell, coach of the Atlanta team, sees other factors that point to a U.S. resurgence.

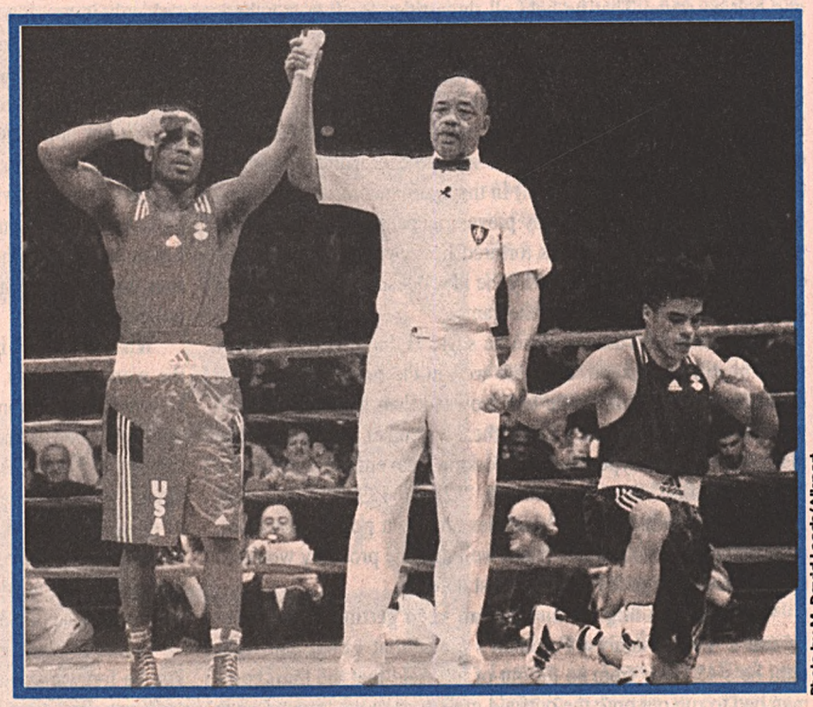


Photo by M. David Leeds/Allsport

Ricardo Williams Jr., considered by many as the most talented fighter on the U.S. Olympic team, salutes the fans after beating Jose Celaya in the Box-offs at Foxwoods Hotel/Casino in February.

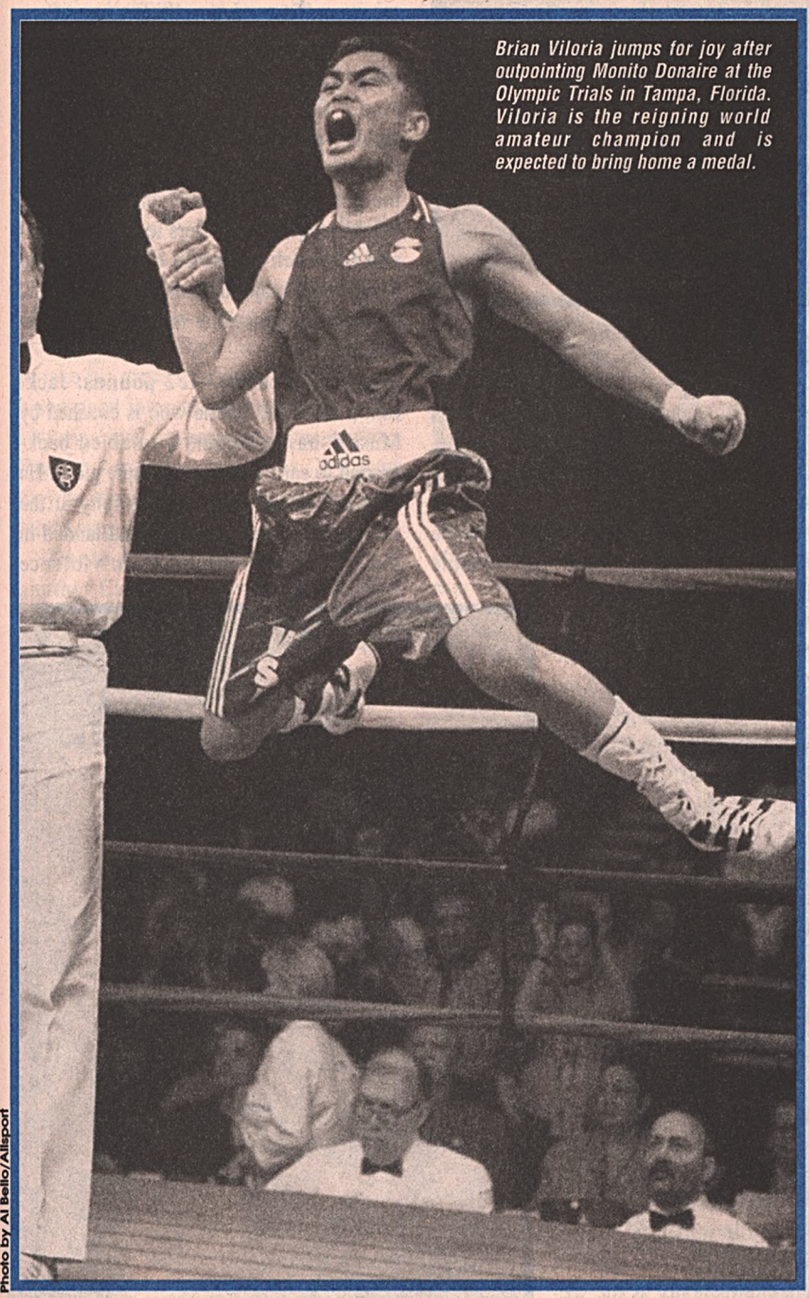


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Brian Viloria jumps for joy after outpointing Monito Donaire at the Olympic Trials in Tampa, Florida. Viloria is the reigning world amateur champion and is expected to bring home a medal.

"This time they started building right after the '96 Games," said Mitchell. "I believe if the right draws come along, America has a chance to win five or six gold medals. This is the first time the playing field has evened."

By that, Mitchell points to a trend that dates back to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Now Russians and East Germans are enticed by the same professional dollars that have always lured Americans away from the amateur ranks at an early age. Cuban athletes are defecting in record numbers. Less and less frequently are young U.S. amateurs matched up with full-grown men in their 30s with decades of international experience.

"Now everybody is rebuilding," said Mitchell, who coaches four Olympians at the elite boxing program set up for top prospects by USA Boxing at Northern Michigan University. "The Germans, the Russians, even Hungary and Bulgaria, they're all turning pro."

Mustin won't go out on a limb and predict the number of medals this U.S. team will win, but he is confident in the team's chances.

"That's the question I've been ducking from every corner," he said. "I think if you go to a man, all 12 on this team could win a medal. I'm not saying all 12 will get medals. That's not going to happen, but I'm not counting anybody out."

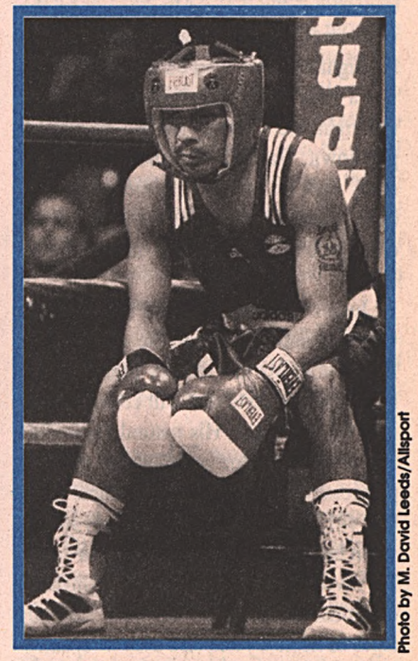


Photo by M. David Leeds/Allsport

Ricardo "Rocky" Juarez, another American boxer highly favored to medal, is a tank-like slugger whose inclusion on the team was aided when the scoring computer went down, and his match had to be judged the old-fashioned way.

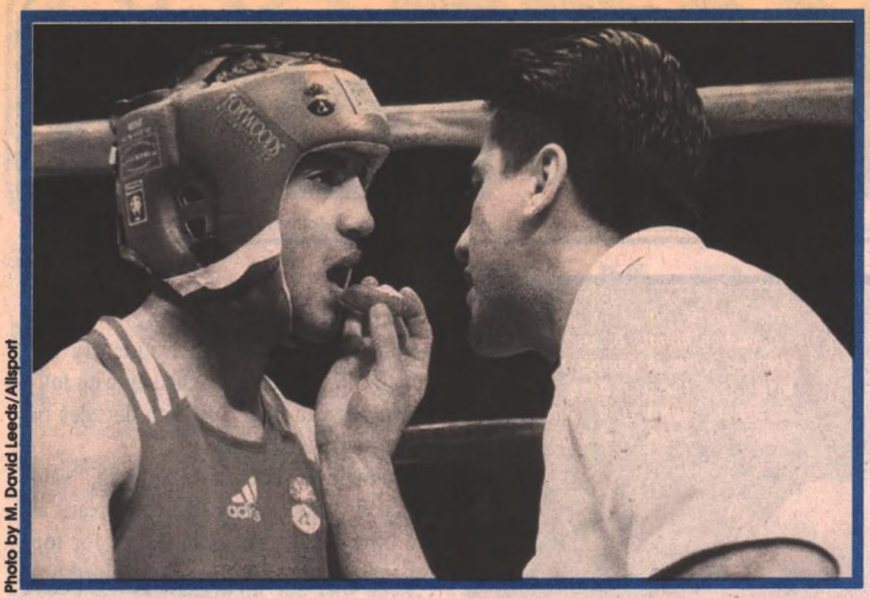


Photo by M. David Leeds/Allsport

Flyweight Jose Navarro between rounds of his bout with Roberto Benitez. Navarro, from Los Angeles, is one of three southpaws on the U.S. team that will invade Sydney, Australia, this summer.

If the team has a star, it may be Ricardo Juarez. He won the 125-pound gold at the World Championships in his hometown of Houston, is a two-time U.S. champion, and is a seasoned international campaigner. The 19-year-old stands only 5'3", but he comes at his opponents like a tank. In his first bout before his home fans at the World Championships, Juarez got a break.

"The computer broke down," Mustin explained, "and they had to go to the scorecards. I said, 'Thank God,' because he might not have won on the computer. It was a close fight. Juarez got on a roll after that fight. He's strong. He just chops people down. Barring the unforeseen, I'm really high on him getting the gold medal over anybody. Since he won the world championship, he's been on a different level."

Juarez was fated for the ring at birth, when his father gave him the middle name Rocky after his idol, Rocky Marciano. He has a fighting style that will convert easily into the pro ranks. His natural aggression and ability to come on strong as the bout progresses are assets at the Olympic level, but will be an even greater advantage when he graduates from the amateur ranks. He favors an under-and-over right-hand combination he picked up from studying tapes of Mike Tyson, and used it repeatedly on the way to his world amateur title.

Here is a look at the rest of the team:

Brian Viloria—106 pounds: Viloria is one of America's three reigning world amateur champions and a bright hope for a medal. The 19-year-old from Honolulu, Hawaii, stands a tall 5'7" and marked himself as a boxer to watch early in his career by winning two national Junior Olympic titles. Before making the U.S. Olympic team, he scored a trifecta in 1999 by winning the National Golden Gloves, the U.S. Championships, and the World Championships in his weight class. He has fought internationally 29 times, winning 24 of those bouts. One of Mitchell's boxers in the Northern Michigan program, Viloria is a classy boxer with good hand speed and above-average power. He is also an accomplished bodypuncher, which should help him in the pro ranks.

Jose Navarro—112 pounds: Navarro of Los Angeles is one of three southpaws on the U.S. team. His introduction to fighting started long before he ever laced on a pair of gloves, coming naturally as the second-youngest of 12 children in his family. Navarro is a slick boxer who likes to throw in flurries, something the current Olympic coaches are trying to tinker with to fit him more into the mold they are trying to build. He scores well, but often gives points back by returning his hands low on defense.

Clarence Vinson—119 pounds: Team co-captain Vinson of Washington, D.C., is one of the veterans of the U.S. team at age 21, with a world-class amateur background dating back to 1997. He competed in the World Championships in '97 and '99, but never made it past the quarterfinals. He's also a three-time U.S. champion and another product of Mitchell's program at Northern Michigan. At 5'2", Vinson isn't the pure pressure fighter that his stature would suggest. He prefers to use quickness and footwork to dazzle opponents, and hasn't lost a major national or international competition since the middle of the '99 season.

David Jackson—132 pounds: Jackson, a native of Seattle who is coached by Mustin, has overcome a troubled background to earn a shot at Olympic glory. He won the outstanding boxer trophy at the '97 nationals, then fell hard and landed in jail a year later on domestic violence

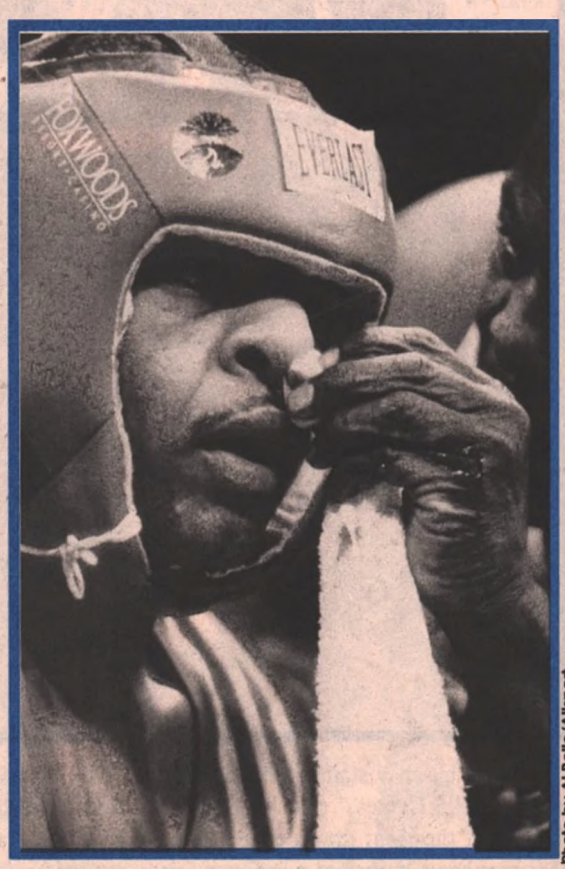


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

David Jackson almost saw his Olympic hopes vanish when he was jailed on a domestic violence charge. But he got another chance when Trials champ Marshall Martinez also got into trouble.

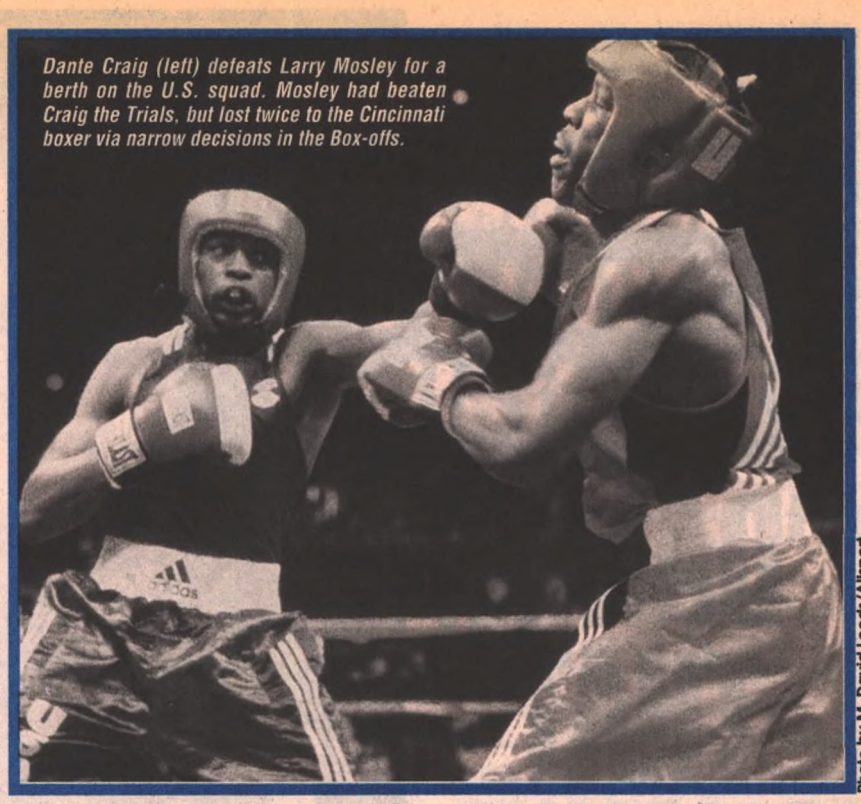
charges. He made the team as an alternate and got a break when Olympic Trials champion Marshall Martinez landed in some out-of-the-ring trouble of his own. The 24-year-old's ability is not in question. He has been given a rare second chance, and has the tools to make the most of it.

Ricardo Williams Jr.—139 pounds: Mustin says two-time national champion Williams is the most talented of the U.S. Olympians.

"He has all the moves," Mustin said of the southpaw. "He's an athlete all the way, the next Sugar Ray or whatever."

Williams competed in the World Championships and lost to a relentless pressure fighter in the second round. Mustin said that loss gave the 18-year-old from Cincinnati, Ohio, the drive he needed to take his game to another level. Already a seasoned international competitor with victories over respected opponents from Russia, Argentina, and Cuba, Williams may be primed to make a big splash on the world stage in Sydney.

Dante Craig—147 pounds: Craig, another Cincinnati product, is the least likely Olympian. He lost on points to Larry Mosley in the Trials, then beat him twice on the narrowest of decisions in the Box-offs to gain a spot on the team. He never won a major national competition before '99 and got his first taste of international competition in Olympic qualifying. He lost in the quarterfinals of his first Olympic qualifying tournament, then came on strong to win the second time around despite an injured right hand and dental surgery during the competition.



Dante Craig (left) defeats Larry Mosley for a berth on the U.S. squad. Mosley had beaten Craig the Trials, but lost twice to the Cincinnati boxer via narrow decisions in the Box-offs.

Photo by M. David Leeds/Allsport

Jermaine Taylor—156 pounds: Taylor of Little Rock, Arkansas, honed his skills in the Northern Michigan program and brings a slugger's mentality to the team. The 21-year-old has a tendency to get wild and likes to engage opponents in a shootout. Taylor has won two National Golden Gloves and two Police Athletic League championships and has two wins over Russia's Andrei Balanov. He also has a strong knockout record that can come in handy in a bind.

"He can take guys out," said Mustin. "Sometimes he gets a little wild and ragged. I guess you could call him a gunslinger."

Jeff Lacy—165 pounds: Lacy of St. Petersburg, Florida, is the team's hardest hitter, and not just pound-for-pound. The Olympic program has an electronic device that measures punching power per square inch, and no one on the team has topped his best mark for one shot. That can be both a blessing and a curse in international competition, because Lacy fights like a puncher and isn't

(Continued on page 60)

Photo by M. David Leeds/Allsport

Super heavyweight representative Calvin Brock barges into T.J. Wilson en route to a points victory. Brock will attempt to be the first American to win super heavyweight gold since 1984.

Vargas-Quartey Increases Winky's Frustration!

"DAMN, THAT SHOULD BE ME UP THERE!"

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Wright still considers himself the number-one man in the junior middleweight division. He disputes each of the three decision losses on his record.

By Ted Bodenrader

He sat in the third row, glowing in his new threads, a well-tailored, bright yellow suit. The young man could hardly move without brushing elbows with a legendary boxing icon, the kind that millions refer to in their living rooms on first-name bases. Big George, Iron Mike, Sweet Pea. To the left, right, back, or front, the millionaires were everywhere, it seemed.

Meanwhile, all eyes marveled over what was happening at the core of the Mandalay Bay Casino that night, as a pair of guys named Fernando and Ike lit up the Vegas strip with a detonation of fistic fireworks. To the ringsiders on that breezy April evening, the quiet young man in the third row had no such name. He could have been a poker dealer or a lounge singer for all anyone cared. He was just the man in the bright yellow suit.

Yet, the slugfest before him had the thrilling drama of a prime-time game show. Fernando then Ike, Ike then Fernando, they swapped one answer after the next, vying for the grand prize. But in the end, it was the IBF junior middleweight champion who gave the correct, final answer, and the capacity gathering was left to gape over his compelling efforts. The waistline of Fernando Vargas was then reunited with his brass title belt, and soon after, his pockets would be stuffed with a $1.35-million paycheck for

his gallant night of work.

But down in the third row, the fire raged in the eyes of a 28-year-old man, eyes that now matched the color of his bright yellow suit. Ronald "Winky" Wright was mad, all right, and surely, he had good reason to be.

"Hell, yeah, I was ticked off!" snapped Wright. "I was looking up at Vargas and saying, 'damn, that should be me up there.'"

After all, the St. Petersburg, Florida, junior middleweight wanted to be more than just a contestant in this violent game. Like everyone else within arms' reach, he wanted to be a millionaire.

It wasn't long ago, December 4, 1999, to be exact, when Wright and Vargas matched wits on the Oregon terrain in a similar showdown. Vargas was somewhat of a caged tiger that night—or at least he brought one with him—but in the end, it was Wright, the slick, rangy southpaw, who punched in with what many believed was a prize-winning performance. Yet the IBF crown and the seven-figure date with Ike Quartey were swiftly deposited plump onto Vargas' lap. To the unheralded Wright, this couldn't be any more Wrong.

"Everyone knew I won that fight, even the Vargas camp," snapped Wright, his career now in a tailspin. "I ran into Mike Tyson and he said, 'Yeah, Vargas is my boy, but you won the fight.' Emanuel Steward said it, Roy Jones said it, Ray Leonard said it—everyone said it!"

But four months later, Wright sat alone in the third row of the Mandalay Bay arena, very much alone, and watched as Vargas' arm was thrust triumphantly into the electric air. Many were buzzing that Vargas was the man to beat at 154 pounds, even if one man claimed to have already done so.

"I was thinking, *No, this guy ain't undefeated*," explained Wright. "This guy's got a loss on his record, even if it don't show."

Wright then hung in the back of the crowded press conference, as Main Events began to cast out offers for its young champion, fishing for a contestant to match wits with its young millionaire champion. Another millionaire by the name of Don King took a sharp nibble, suggesting to pair Vargas with yet another millionaire, WBA 154-pound titlist Felix Trinidad. Other millionaires were then tossed into the mix, millionaires like Oscar De La Hoya and David Reid and Shane Mosley.

More and more millionaires soon engaged in the political tug-of-war, millionaires from HBO and millionaires from Showtime, all wanting a slice of the commodity known as Fernando Vargas. Wright shook his head, quiet yet frustrated, fiddling through the empty pockets of his bright yellow suit.

"Nobody wants to fight me," admitted Wright. "I'm too good a fighter without the big name. And I have to sit around and watch as these other guys get the big fights. That should have been me fighting Trinidad instead of Reid. That should have been me fighting Quartey instead of Vargas. None of these guys want to fight me, and the TV doesn't want me fighting anyone, either."

No, the networks never had a slot for a Wright on their competitive broadcasting schedules. The Time Warner shirt-and-tie types, forever obsessed with the ratings game, are not interested in reeling in the pond's smaller fish. Instead, they're looking to hook the box office whales, any of the first-name phenoms you know simply as Iron Mike or Big George or Sweet Pea.

"These promoters and television executives just make up their own rules for what's best for them and what's going to make them the most money, regardless of what happens in the ring," Wright explained. "And I'm very upset about it."

Wright has long been cast underneath a blanket of obscurity, perhaps the best boxer around who you've never even heard of. His resume is nothing less than stellar, beginning as far back as the 1990 Olympic Festival, when he knocked off the formidable Stevie Johnston to capture tournament gold, then proceeding by winning the lightly regarded WBO and NABF junior middleweight titles.

Yet, the Big Show, the one known as the championship boxing circuit, never quite wanted Wright as a leading man. Occasionally, he's appeared as an unwanted guest star, and the episodes have all ended in utter tragedy. Thus, the three wrongs in his tranquil 39-3 (24) career have hardly added up to a right.

August 21, 1994, first introduced Wright to the canvas—and to defeat—

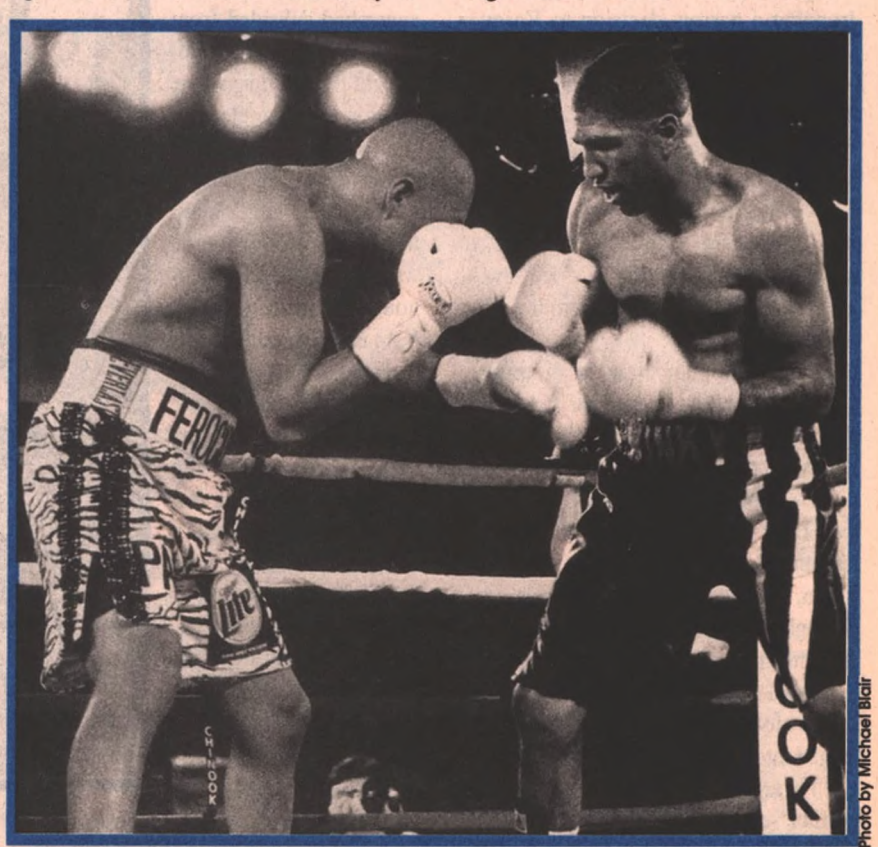
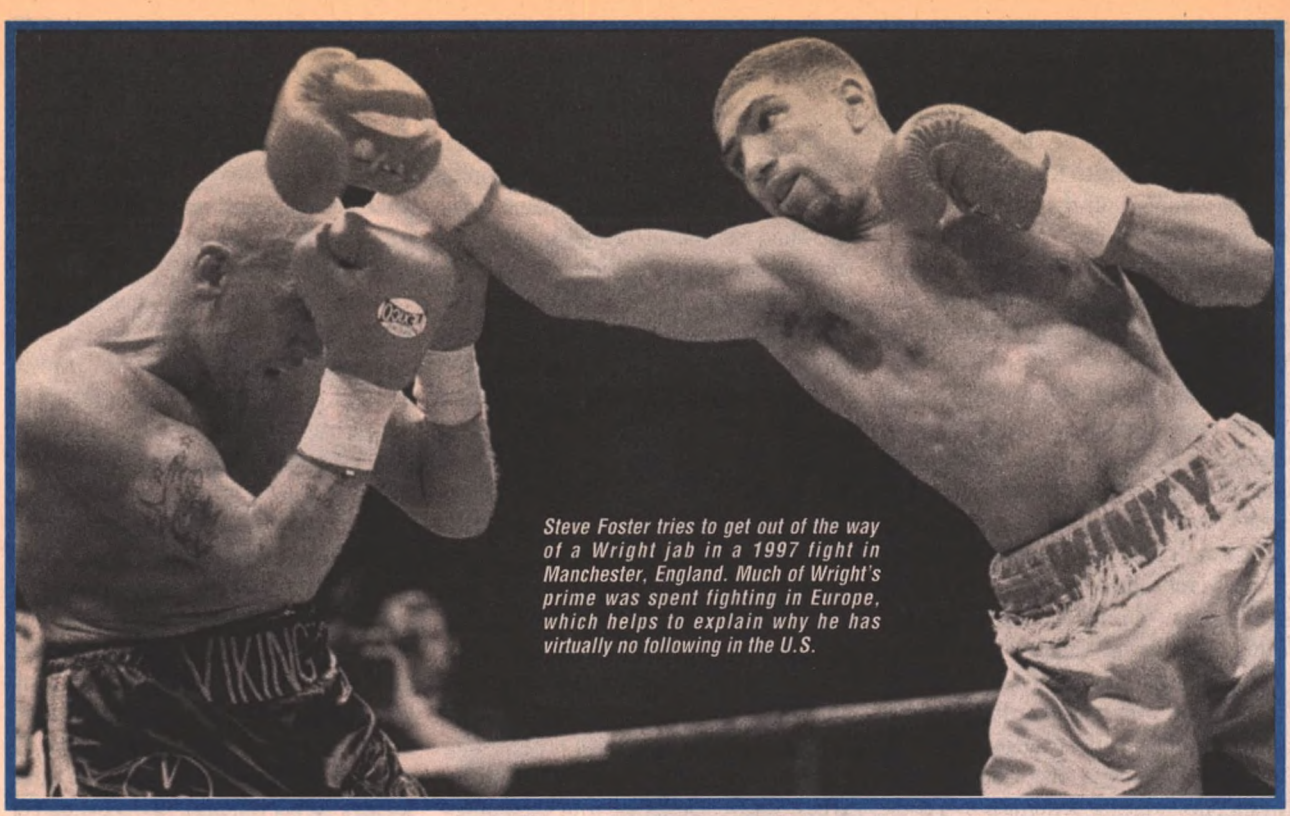


Photo by Michael Blair

Wright goes on the attack in his December '99 fight with Fernando Vargas, a battle he would lose via controversial majority decision. When Wright saw Vargas celebrating his tremendous win over Ike Quartey a few months later, the Florida southpaw felt a mixture of jealousy and rage.



Steve Foster tries to get out of the way of a Wright jab in a 1997 fight in Manchester, England. Much of Wright's prime was spent fighting in Europe, which helps to explain why he has virtually no following in the U.S.

when he let his 12-round shot at then-WBA junior middle champ Julio Cesar Vasquez slip away—literally. Wright, dropping a narrow decision to Vasquez, was penalized four points for what he swears to this day were slips on the water-slick canvas.

Four years later, after bouncing back with wins over such noteworthy fighters as Tony Marshall, Andrew Council, and Bronco McKart, an August 22, 1998, tilt with Harry Simon in South Africa saw his title belt abruptly detached from him. Yes, literally.

After what many saw as an apparent points victory over Simon, the judges declared the contest a draw, to the amazement of Wright.

"I was upset with the draw, but I could have lived with it," said Wright. "I knew at least that I'd retain my belt."

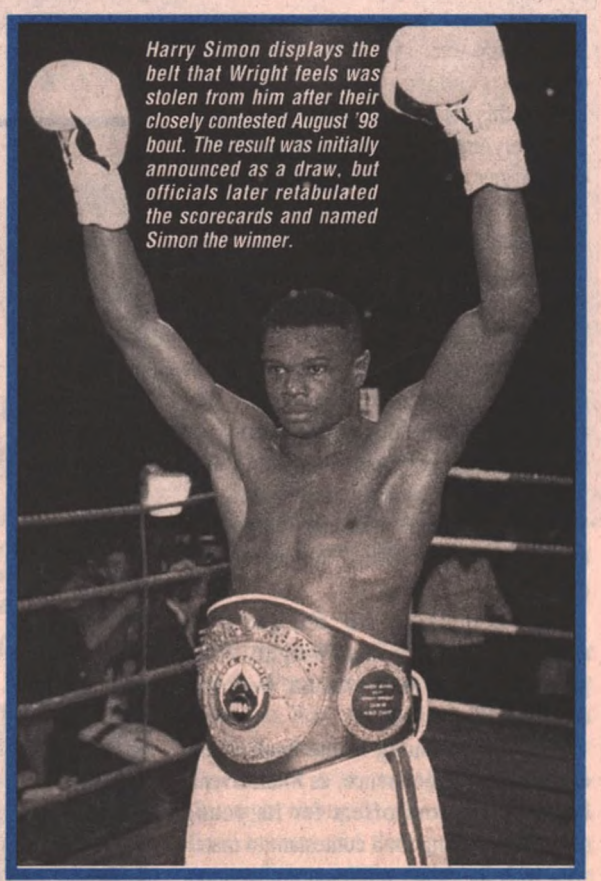
So, Wright partook in the customary postfight festivities, mugging for the camera with the belt around his waist. A few minutes later, he was squeezing into his street clothes when the WBO officials barged into his dressing room.

"I was standing there in my clothes, getting ready to leave the arena, when these guys told me that I lost," recalled Wright. "They came up with some s___ that they added the scores up wrong, and they gave my belt to Simon."

When 16 months of anger had subsided from the South Africa fiasco, Wright figured it was time to wipe the slate clean in front of a national television audience, against one of the sport's rising glory boys. His performance was brilliant, as he continuously beat the younger Vargas to the punch, outslugging him on the inside as well as the outside.

The gritty performance won over the scorecards of quite a few viewers, including HBO's Harold Lederman, who inked Wright as a two-point winner over the network's poster boy. But the only three scorecards that mattered, those of the IBF judges, introduced Vargas to a vibrant future and Wright to an even darker closet.

"In all seriousness," said Wright, "as I look back on my three losses, I realize that I should still be undefeated."



Harry Simon displays the belt that Wright feels was stolen from him after their closely contested August '98 bout. The result was initially announced as a draw, but officials later retabulated the scorecards and named Simon the winner.

Furious, hurt, and confused, Wright returned to the modest St. Petersburg home that he shares with his girlfriend and two children, waiting out the days for his con-

tract with King to run out, so he can reassess his future and keep his eyes on the ultimate prize. But becoming that millionaire he yearns to someday be will be far more challenging than anything Vargas ever threw his way, especially without a major promoter in his corner.

"I'm now a self-managed free agent, looking to fight anyone who's willing to fight me," said Wright. "Trinidad, De La Hoya, Vargas, bring them all on. I'll be calling the networks, seeing what I can do to get a contract or to get a fight with any one of these guys. But really, I don't think that any of them want to fight me. In fact, none of them do."

Not when you have fists that can swell and a name that can't sell, as is the case with Wright. He's played this game once before, risen to the test, and been shoved aside without collecting his million-dollar prize. Until Wright stumbles across that lucky break once again, he'll remain that nameless face sunk somewhere down around the third row, dissolved within a rich garden of millionaires, most of them referred to on a first-name basis. And once again, he'll be waiting for his turn as a contestant in the Big Show, that high-stakes game that he seemingly cannot win.

As for now, his consolation prize seems to be nothing less than a chilling silence—and little more than a bright yellow suit. ■

Ted Bodenrader is a freelance writer based in Boston and a regular contributor to this magazine.

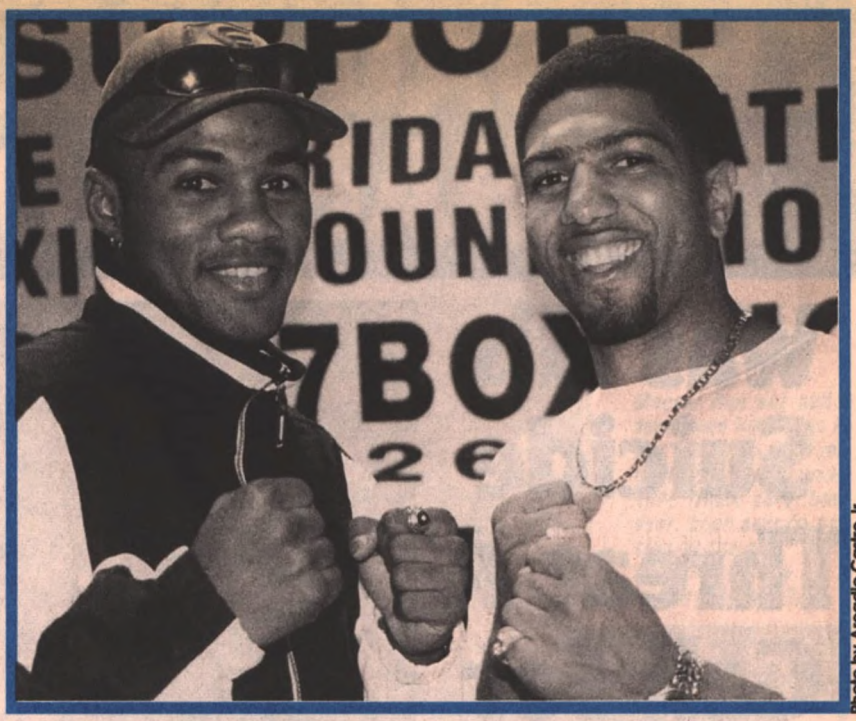


Photo by Arcadio Castro Jr.

A fight with Felix Trinidad would put a huge smile on Wright's face. Unfortunately, being an obscure, tricky southpaw, big-money fights with name opponents are hard to come by for Wright.

Wright backs up Bronco McKart en route to a 1996 decision win. Wright also holds points wins over such proven contenders as Tony Marshall and Andrew Council.

THE SAD DECLINE OF MICHAEL MOORER

Was His Suicide Threat A Call For Help?

By Johnnie Whitehead

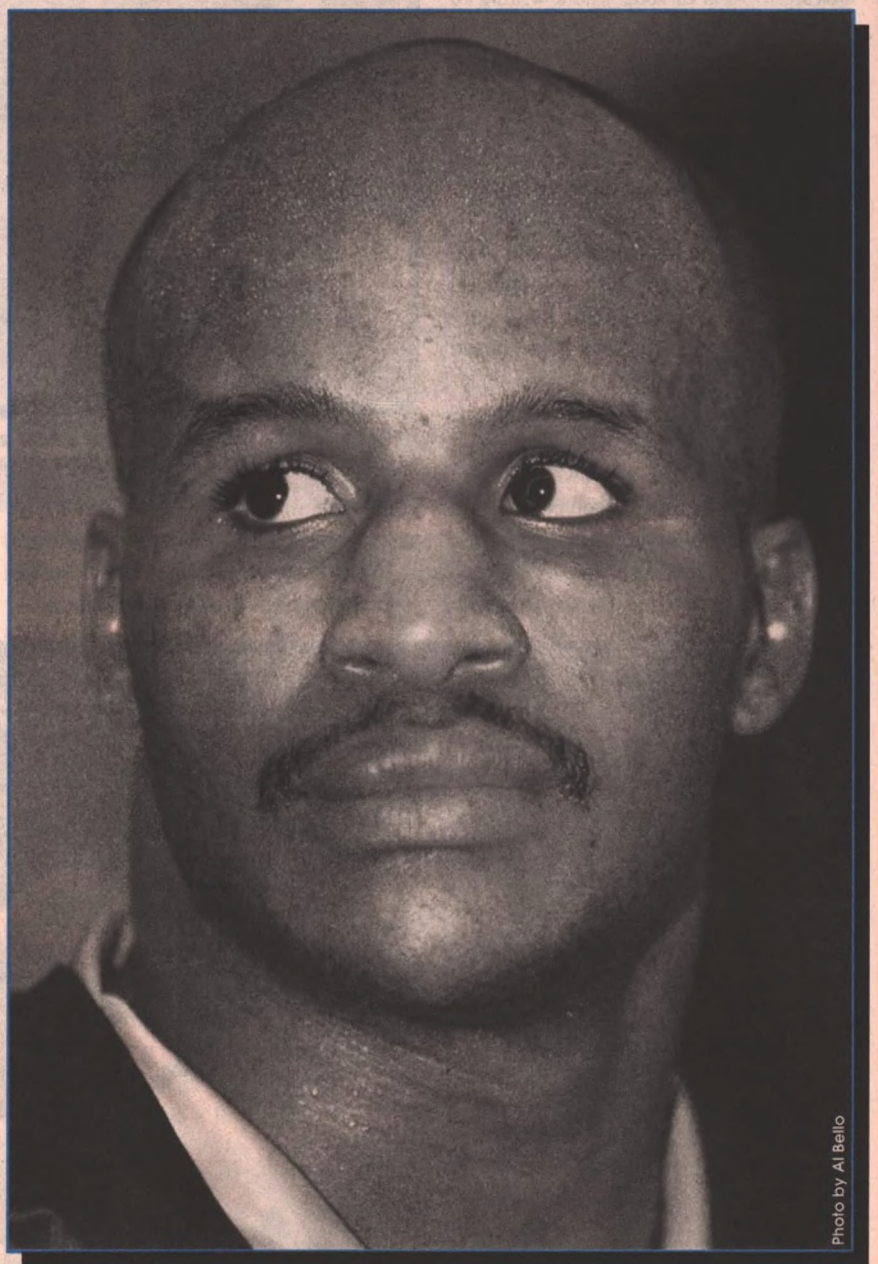


Photo by Al Bello

The mental state of Michael Moorer has always been open to debate. You know the questions: How could a guy who was once the fiercest and most exciting light heavyweight in the world turn into such a heavyweight dud? How can a guy who calls himself a champion come into one of the biggest fights of his career nonchalant and grossly out of shape? How can a warrior all of a sudden turn pacifist and allow the likes of a Vaughn Bean to last the distance? And perhaps the most perplexing of all, how can a guy go from being the heavyweight champion and a millionaire to a individual seemingly on the verge of a mental breakdown?

"Michael is not a bad kid," said his former trainer, Teddy Atlas. "We all have issues. There's no secret that Michael has some emotional issues as far as his insecurities. Some even [reveal] themselves in the ring. It was never that he lacked courage or heart. It was lack of confidence that goes from his athletic life to his personal life."

Moorer again unraveled on April 17 at 12:23 a.m. in Boca Raton, Florida, where police responded to a report of a gunshot at Southwest 20 Avenue. When they arrived, the police saw Moorer about to leave the house on a motorcycle, and detained him. Moorer's live-in girlfriend, Maria George, told authorities that Moorer had been drinking at a friend's house and started an argument when he returned home. She also said that Moorer had placed a gun to his head and said, "I'm gonna die tonight!" Moorer admitted to firing a shot inside the house and was taken into custody.

According to police, the former heavyweight champion was then taken to the South County Mental Health Center for evaluation, as mandated by the state's

Teddy Atlas, pictured giving Moorer advice between rounds of the Frans Botha fight, says that the fighter isn't a bad guy, just someone haunted by insecurities that are exacerbated by alcohol.

Moorer has not had a sanctioned fight since he was knocked out by Evander Holyfield in November 1997. There have, however, been several outside-of-the-ring altercations that have led to trouble with the police.

Baker Act, which allows those who are a threat to themselves or others to be institutionalized involuntarily while they are assessed. While police have reconfirmed the reported details of the incident, the mental health center has no record of Moorer being admitted, according to a clerk in the records department.

"Right after the incident in Boca Raton, we couldn't find him anywhere," said Richard Slone, a self-described "right-hand man" for Moorer's mentor, Emanuel Steward. "We called him at his home [the next day] in Detroit, and there he was, not in an institution somewhere."

Moorer admitted to Steward that he had a loaded gun in the house and that he had been drinking, but denies there was ever a confrontation with police and maintains that the incident has been "blown out of proportion." Slone said that Moorer, 32, will start training for a comeback and "return to his roots" at the Kronk Gym to work with Steward.

But let's not haggle over the details of this latest episode. It's clear that Moorer has some serious issues to resolve before he can get his personal life together and maybe make a successful return to the ring. Since his last fight, which was almost three years ago, Moorer has been in the headlines for all of the wrong reasons.

"No, I'm not surprised," said his longtime manager, John Davimos. "When Michael drinks, he gets himself in trouble. He's done that a lot in the past. He's had a lot of run-ins with the law. I don't know if there's anything different this time. It just seems to be the same pattern."

•In 1989, police in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, charged Moorer with assault and disorderly conduct following a street brawl.

•In 1993, Moorer pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years probation after breaking a police officer's jaw in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

•In 1996, Moorer was fined $1,000 for disorderly conduct outside of a bar in Monessen, Pennsylvania.

•In 1998, a waitress accused Moorer of threatening her with a broken beer bottle at a bar.

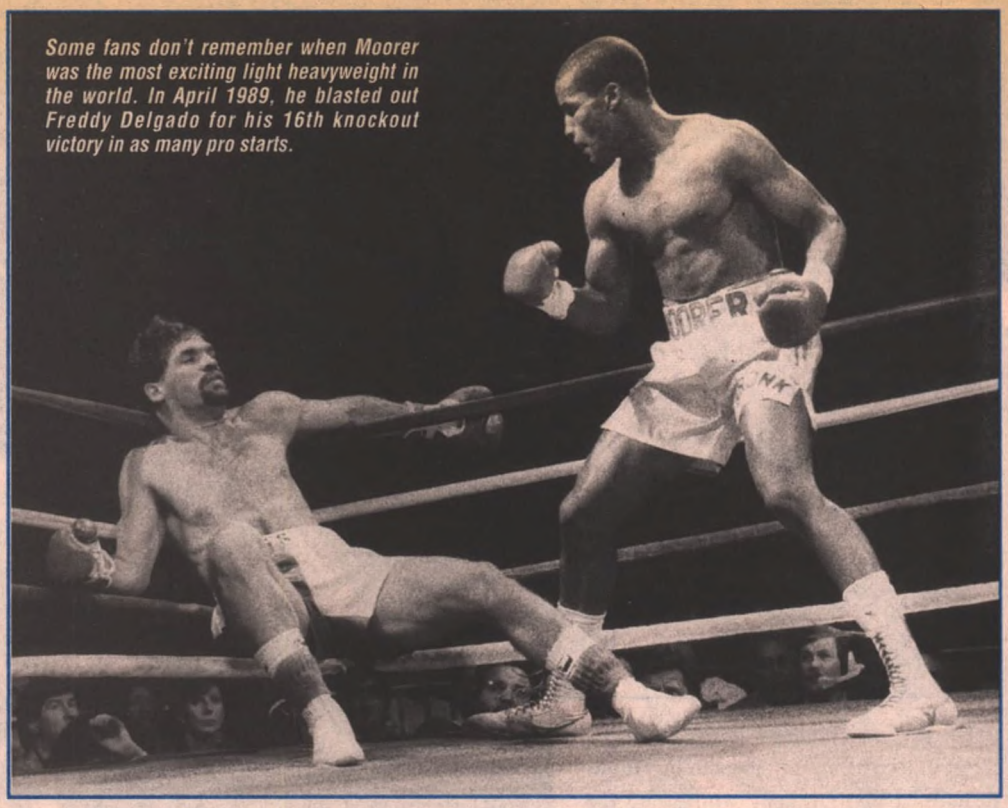
•In 1999, Moorer was arrested for drunken driving and evading arrest charges in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, after crashing his '97 Mercedes Benz into a ditch. Police reports show that Moorer became upset while at a bar and drove away. He struck a guard rail, and a deputy was forced to draw his weapon when Moorer refused to cooperate.

•Later that month, Moorer was sucker-punched by an unidentified man in a Boca

Raton restaurant. He reportedly became so enraged that he begged police offers to handcuff him, but before they could, he punched a car windshield, cracked it, and destroyed the rearview mirror.

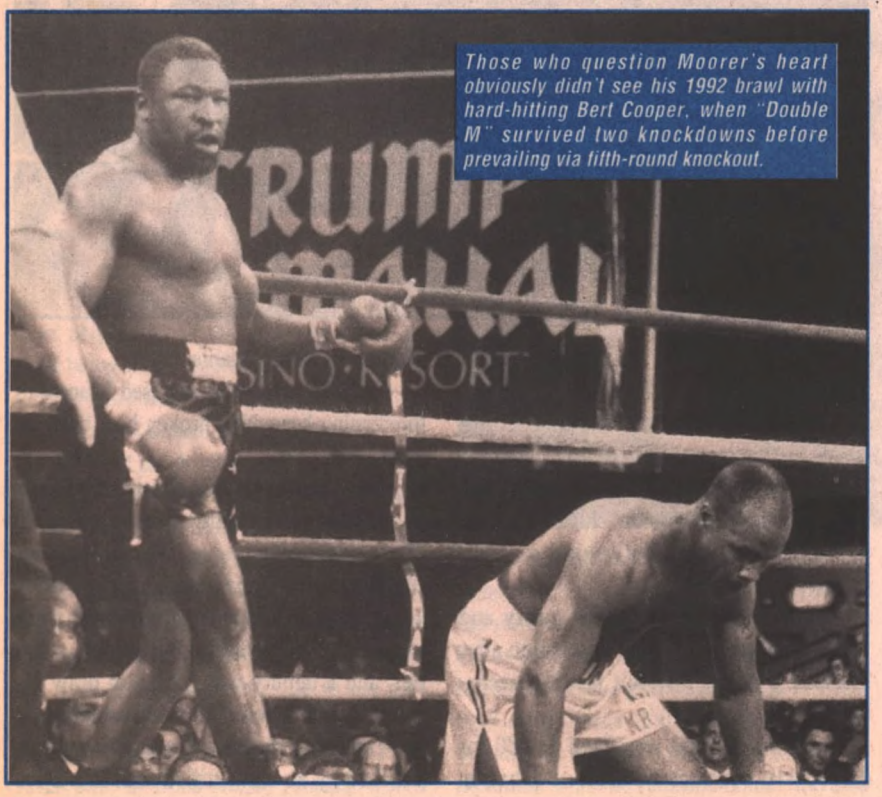
Moorer's problems, however, didn't stop there. Last year his grandfather filed a $1-million lawsuit against him, claiming he was entitled to a percentage of the fighter's earnings because he taught him how to box as an amateur. Fortunately for Moorer, a Pennsylvania judge threw the case out of court.

"He's a sensitive kid," Atlas said. "He sometimes doubts the sincerity of people. Sometimes he has problems with liking himself. When you mix that with alcohol, then you have a problem. I had told him plenty of times I would not train him if he was drinking. He should not be in the same room with alcohol. He can drink a half a glass, and there's problems. It's like putting a light onto gasoline. It takes all those emotions out and dumps them all over the floor."



Some fans don't remember when Moorer was the most exciting light heavyweight in the world. In April 1989, he blasted out Freddy Delgado for his 16th knockout victory in as many pro starts.

The last time we saw Moorer in the ring, he was flat on his back, having been stopped in his rematch with Evander Holyfield. Moorer hit the canvas five times en route to an eighth-round defeat, but was lauded for the heart he showed by getting up time and again. His woeful condition, however, was widely criticized, and the outcome was apparent at the weigh-in when he revealed a lumpy midsection that had more dents than a broken-down Buick. Moorer reportedly pocketed $8-million for the second Holyfield fight, but it apparently did little to ease his frustration with life.



Those who question Moorer's heart obviously didn't see his 1992 brawl with hard-hitting Bert Cooper, when "Double M" survived two knockdowns before prevailing via fifth-round knockout.

"Emanuel Steward told me once that Michael gets down on himself a lot and gets insecure," said Freddie Roach, who trained Moorer for the Holyfield rematch and last saw him at the Paulie Ayala-Johnny Tapia fight in June '99. "Michael has made a lot of money; I hope he's hung on to it. He's accomplished a lot in his career. I wouldn't be depressed if I were him, but that's me."

Most people don't remember the original Michael Moorer, the one who tore through the light heavyweight ranks, beat every viable contender available, and left the 175-pound division with a stellar record of 22 knockouts in 22 fights. And they don't remember the Michael Moorer who engaged in one of the most riveting slugfests of the '90s, when he went toe-to-toe with Bert Cooper. (In that war, Moorer was dropped twice by paralyzing right hands, but came back to stop Cooper with one of the most beautiful uppercuts you'll ever see.) Some fans even have difficulty recalling the

(Continued on page 62)

Photo by Craig Moran/Allsport

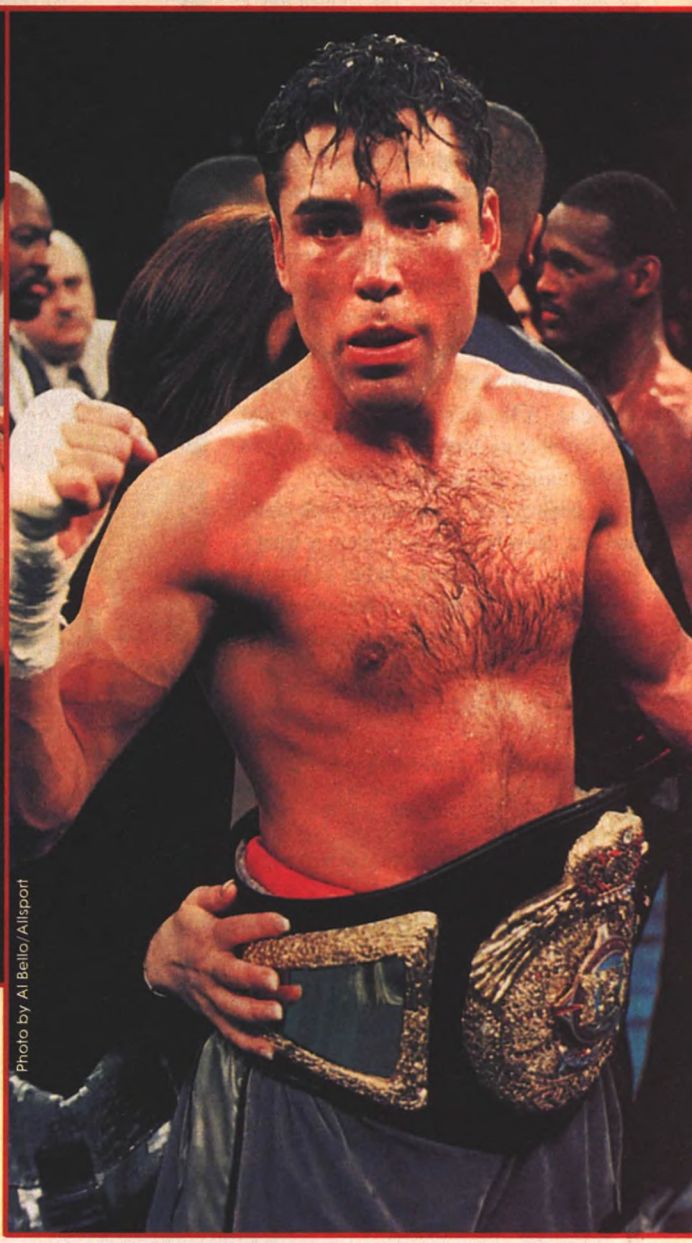


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

WHY DO OSCAR AND FERNANDO HATE EACH OTHER?

By Ivan Goldman

As their careers stretch before us like bejeweled pathways to the unknown, it's more and more logical to compare Oscar De La Hoya with Fernando Vargas. Both are Mexican-Americans, both represented the U.S. as Olympians, both are among the best fighters in the world. But to compare De La Hoya, 27, and Vargas, 22, in any meaningful way, one must search beyond the obvious and explore the very nature of their souls. And that's the way it ought to be, because boxing can ask and answer questions like no other sport. It doesn't just pose riddles. Boxing strips a man down and asks him who he really is. Sometimes he doesn't learn the answer until he's on the ropes, hurt, gasping for air, running out of ideas, and has either too little or too much time left till the bell.

Such brutal, unforgiving, bittersweet

Vargas got a great deal of satisfaction out of beating Ike Quartey more convincingly than De La Hoya did. Of course, "The Golden Boy" would probably claim he softened up Quartey for "Ferocious Fernando."

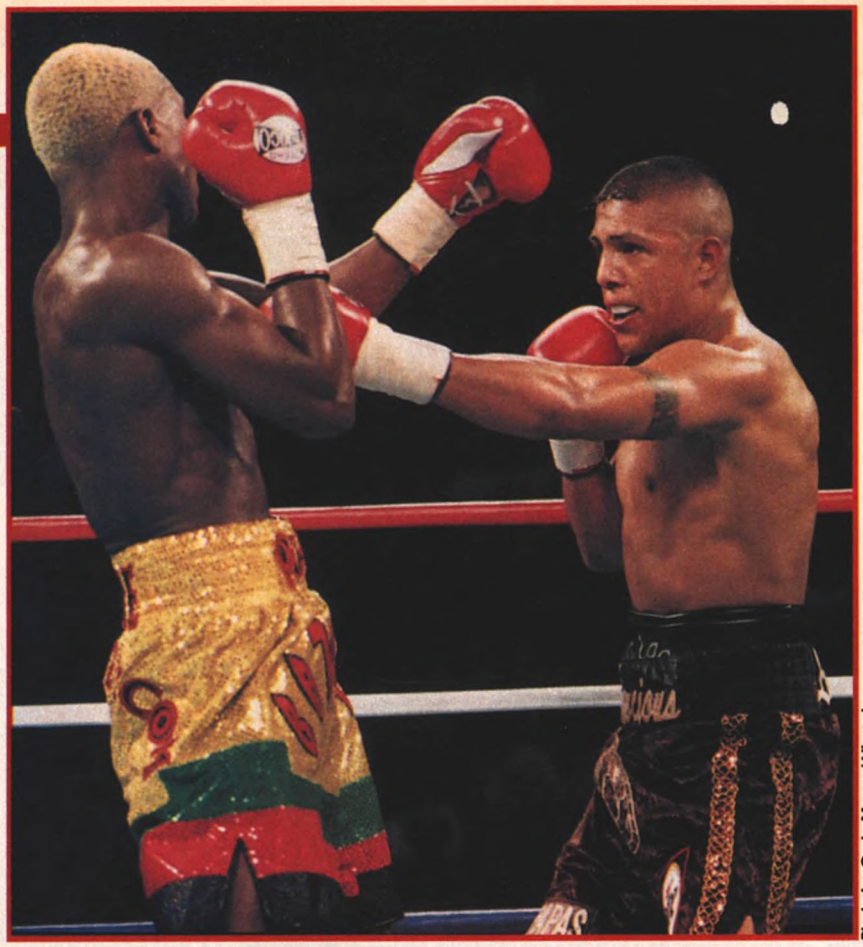


Photo by Craig Moran/Allsport

tests measure almost too much of a man. But this is the life fighters choose, a life of intense personal introspection and performance they must endure in the glare of the universe. For the rest of their lives they will relive isolated split seconds of time they spent in the ring.

De La Hoya confesses he's repeatedly watched the tape of his loss to Felix Trinidad. What must he feel as over and over he watches himself make that foolish retreat during the last four rounds?

In boxing, every man knows both doubt and fear. How he deals with them is what's important. De La Hoya's belief in himself is herky-jerky, bursting in and out like a high-wattage bulb that isn't screwed tight. This makes him less predictable. He will almost always prevail—but how?

De La Hoya, a converted southpaw, displays his punishing left jab against Derrell Coley. Unfortunately, his right hand is nowhere near as powerful, a fact that Vargas may take advantage of if they ever clash in the ring.

Photo by Jamie Squires/Allsport

Sometimes he steps back when he should come forward, and at the worst possible times. Then he catches himself, confronting his demons and attacking like a man who has nothing to lose. That's how he defeated Ike Quartey. It wasn't until the championship rounds that De La Hoya remembered who he was and decided on a course against the nearly indestructible African with the jackhammer jab. By then, it was almost too late. But De La Hoya once again showed what winning was all about. His will shined bright, overpowering the stoic might of Quartey.

Fernando? Against their common opponent Quartey, he followed the path blazed by his arch-rival. Knowing De La Hoya was able to break Quartey down, Vargas decided he could not allow himself to do worse. So he waded in from the start, taking everything Quartey had to give him and answering with both fists. And Vargas can take out an opponent with either hand. He's quick and moves unpredictably, like a boxer who had a great amateur career, which he did.

Ironically, in his earlier pro fights Vargas was known as a slugger who didn't box much—probably, it was thought, because he didn't know how. But as his career moved forward and opponents got tougher, he pulled more boxing tricks out of his bag, using tactics he'd stored up from his amateur days.

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Eduardo Garcia (left) has been Vargas' chief trainer throughout his pro career, but due to the Duva family feud, patriarch Lou Duva (right) is no longer a member of Team Vargas.

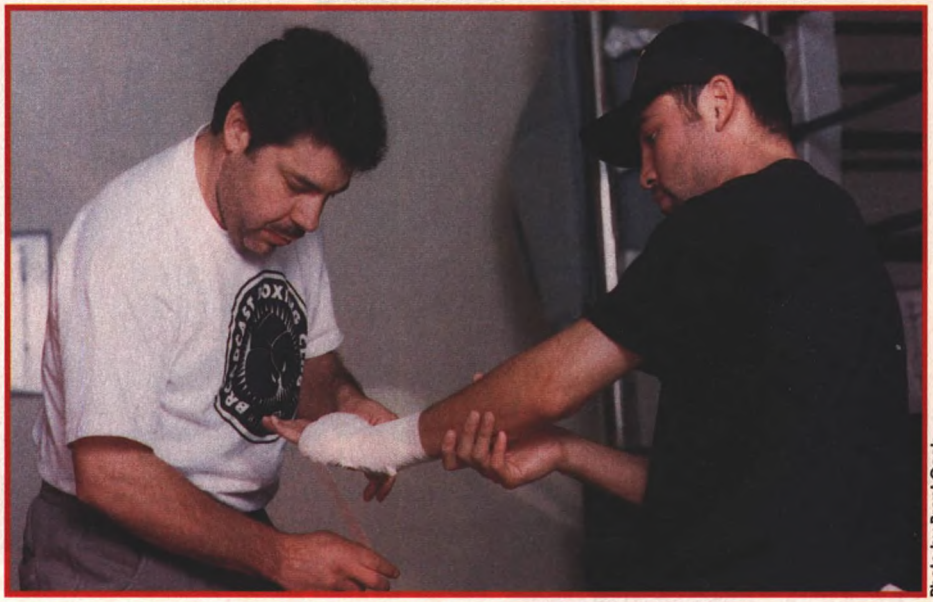


Photo by Brent Cook

The survivor: Despite the ongoing turmoil in De La Hoya's camp, Roberto Alcazar is still there, a family friend who has survived many personnel changes over the years.

If Vargas was ever protected from tough competition, it didn't last long. He fought for the IBF 154-pound title when he was only 21, lifting it from Yory Boy Campas without muss or fuss. It was Vargas' most memorable performance leading up to the Quartey fight. Pitted against one of the most powerful pound-for-pound hitters in the game, Vargas made him quit after seven rounds.

Staying in range almost all the time, Vargas was a tantalizing target Campas could not hit solidly. Meanwhile, the challenger punished him with combinations. "Ferocious Fernando" revealed himself as a classy, experienced, quick, merciless puncher. He showed the world that an opponent must be very fast to stand a chance against him.

De La Hoya has never possessed Vargas' two-handed power. But as a southpaw who throws from an orthodox stance, he owns one of the best left hooks in the business, along with a terrific whip of a jab. It's very difficult to see his left coming, and because of his great reflexes and hand-eye coordination, he can end a fight with it at any time.

But when De La Hoya was 21, his many handlers were still protecting their "Golden Boy" like a delicate piece of porcelain. He was competing at 130 pounds, two pounds less than his amateur weight, and he avoided challenging for a top belt. Instead he went after the less prestigious WBO title held by Jimmi Bredahl, a southpaw Dane with no punch, and beat him in 10 rounds.

It was about this time, as De La Hoya gathered endorsements and increasing numbers of love-smitten female fans, that

(Continued on page 57)

A NEW LOOK AT LENNOX LEWIS

Photo by Al Bello, Allsport

Lewis' lethal right hand connected repeatedly with Michael Grant's head, resulting in four knockdowns in less than two rounds. The ruthless manner in which Lewis bludgeoned his previously undefeated challenger at Madison Square Garden has prompted a reevaluation of the undisputed heavyweight champion.

Is He An All-Time Great?

By Nigel Collins

When ring announcer Mike Buffer announced that Lennox Lewis was still "the universally recognized, undisputed, true heavyweight champion of the world" and fireworks shot into the air at Madison Square Garden, it sounded not only the final note of Michael Grant's failed attempt to win the heavyweight title, but also rang the chimes of revision.

Following a performance in which Lewis more resembled a Manhattan mugger than the tea-sipping, chess-playing tactician of the two Evander Holyfield fights, it's time to take a new look at the man at the top of the heavyweight heap. Because regardless of whether or not the dread-locked warrior of Jamaican heritage fits the public's image of what a heavyweight champion of the world should be, it is becoming more and more apparent that Lewis has been almost as misjudged as a fighter as he has been misunderstood as a man.

A few years ago, in the Holiday 1998 issue of THE RING, we published a lengthy article entitled, "The 50 Greatest Heavyweights Of All-Time." Lewis, who was between the Shannon Briggs and Zeljko Mavrovic fights at the time the editors made their selections, ended up at number 32, sandwiched betwixt non-champions Cleveland Williams at number 31 and Earnie Shavers at 33. Since then, Lewis has beaten Mavrovic on points, drew with and decisioned Holyfield, and iced Grant to improve his record to 36-1-1 (28)—and forced a reevaluation of his ultimate place among the heavyweight hierarchy.

The knock on Lewis has always been aesthetical rather than pragmatic. People mistook his laid-back attitude for a lack of passion, confused caution with cowardice, and withheld their support in the hope that someone more to their liking would come along and wipe that condescending smirk off his face. But except for his second-round knockout loss to Oliver McCall way back in September '94, Lewis has remained unbeaten, slowly forcing most of his detractors to begrudgingly admit that he is, after all, a damned good fighter, maybe even a great one.

To an extent, Lewis has been damned by one of the very things that make him an effective fighter—versatility. Generally speaking, people like to know what they're getting before buying it, but with Lewis they're never quite sure what to expect: the bomber who whacked out Razor Ruddock, Andrew Golota, and Grant, the survivor who outlasted Frank Bruno, Briggs, and Mavrovic, or the boxer who outsmarted an aging Holyfield. Yet each of those fights helped mold a man who now stands atop the division, with nary a contender in sight that oddsmakers would make even-money against him. Lewis must be doing something right.

The scandalous draw decision in the first Holyfield fight garnered Lewis a sizable amount of sympathetic support, but when the rematch resulted in another snoozer, it hurt his appeal. Sure, he'd unified the title, which was undeniably a good thing, but who wants to fork over big bucks to watch a low-risk, strategic sparring match? Apparently, not many, as only 375,000 homes purchased TVKO's pay-per-view of Lewis-Grant for a gross take of approximately $17-million, despite the fact that the challenger was considered by many as the heir apparent to the heavyweight throne.

"It wasn't outstanding, but it was within the range of expectations going into the fight," said TVKO's Mark Taffet. "We didn't expect it to be one of the hugest pay-per-views in history. But the way Lennox won is pivotal in establishing him with the U.S. public."

The you're-only-as-good-as-your-last-fight axiom will work in Lewis' favor the

next time, but won't automatically guarantee a slam-bam affair any more than the two tap dances with Holyfield meant the Grant fight would be a ho-hummer.

"I don't think I should be judged by my two fights with Evander Holyfield," reasoned Lewis shortly after dispatching Grant. "Styles definitely make fights. Evander was there to survive. He's an old pro; he knows the game.

"I think this fight proved I have awesome power and I can take you out with any punch. But I said from the beginning that if he came out aggressive, it was just going to make for a short fight."

The reality is that unless fans perceive the challenger as having an excellent chance of knocking him off his throne, Lewis will never be the box office attraction Mike Tyson and Holyfield were in their primes, and even Holyfield had to be in with a good fighter—George Foreman, Riddick Bowe, Tyson—to pull down huge numbers. But we should never confuse drawing power with fighting prowess. The two things are often linked, but never the same. So, with an eye toward posterity, lets put pecuniary matters aside for now, and reexamine Lennox Lewis the fighter.

Although it is unfair to render the final verdict on a fighter's place in history before his career comes to an end, Lewis has been fighting professionally since June 1989, and we already know enough about him to reach a number of conclusions, especially in light of his last few fights.

Among top athletes at the peak of their physical powers, strength of mind frequently proves the difference, just as it did in the two Holyfield-Tyson fights. This is one of those intangible areas where Lewis has shown superiority over most of his opponents. When faced with a savvy, uncompromising warrior like Holyfield, Lewis fought a disciplined fight, refusing to cater to the fans by slugging it out. This must have been particularly difficult in the rematch, when the memory of the shafting two of the three judges gave him the first time was fresh in his mind. But rather than place himself in harm's way in a risky bid to eliminate the need for postfight arithmetic, Lewis stuck to the same fight plan that should have earned him victory in the first fight. True, this kind of fighting philosophy didn't win over many new fans, but that doesn't detract from its effectiveness.

TWO ROUNDS

Michael Grant had the right idea—take the fight to Lennox Lewis hard and fast. He just didn't go about it the right way. In fact, despite 31 pro bouts to his credit, the 27-year-old challenger looked like he'd never had the gloves on before as he attacked the defending heavyweight champion during the opening moments of their scheduled 12-rounder. Nerves and suddenly finding yourself confronted with a man of Lewis' stature can do that to a fighter. But it least it was exciting while it lasted and kept the crowd of 17,324 at Madison Square Garden roaring from the first bell to the final knockdown.

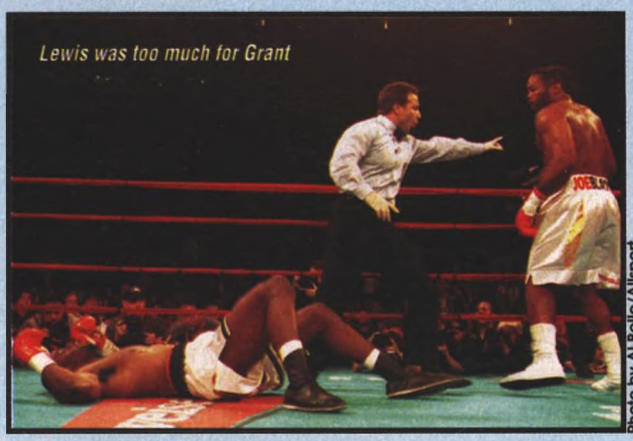
Grant, 250, Norristown, Pennsylvania, lurched out of his corner and landed a stiff left jab and a pretty good right before Lewis began to punch back.

"I was surprised," admitted Lewis. "I didn't think he would be *that* aggressive."

It was not long, however, before Lewis, 247, London, England, began to unload with his potent right hand. A clubbing shot to the back of Grant's ducking head short-circuited his equilibrium, and he tumbled to the canvas. He still looked unsteady after referee Arthur Mercante Jr. (USA) administered the eight-count, and following a few more blows from Lewis, Grant tried to grab, only to stumble backward as Mercante moved between them. Grant ended up sprawled against the turnbuckles in a defenseless posture, where he took another count.

The third knockdown of the round was a beauty. Lewis shot out a jab and then stepped in with a picture-perfect right to the chin. Grant's feet flew out from under him and he crashed down on his back. That he somehow managed to grope his way to his feet just inside of the 10-count is a minor miracle and a testament to his courage, but had the bell not rang immediately after he did, there would not have been a second round.

Lewis, who had made excellent use of his right uppercut during his first-round blitz, went right back to the same punch



Lewis was too much for Grant

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

in the second. Late in the round, with Grant on the receiving end of another one-sided beating, the challenger ducked low in an attempt to find refuge. Big mistake. Last mistake. Lewis, his left arm draped across Grant's neck, holding him in position, ripped a final right uppercut directly into Grant's conveniently lowered chin. Grant, 31-1 (22), crumpled to the floor, where he was counted out at the 2:53 mark.

"I went to a straight grudge match," said Grant of his kamikaze approach. "I shouldn't have done that. That was stupidity on my part. I didn't think my game plan through."

Although Lewis' lethal onslaught was as crude as it was effective, his trainer, Emanuel Steward, was far happier with his performance than he has frequently been in the past.

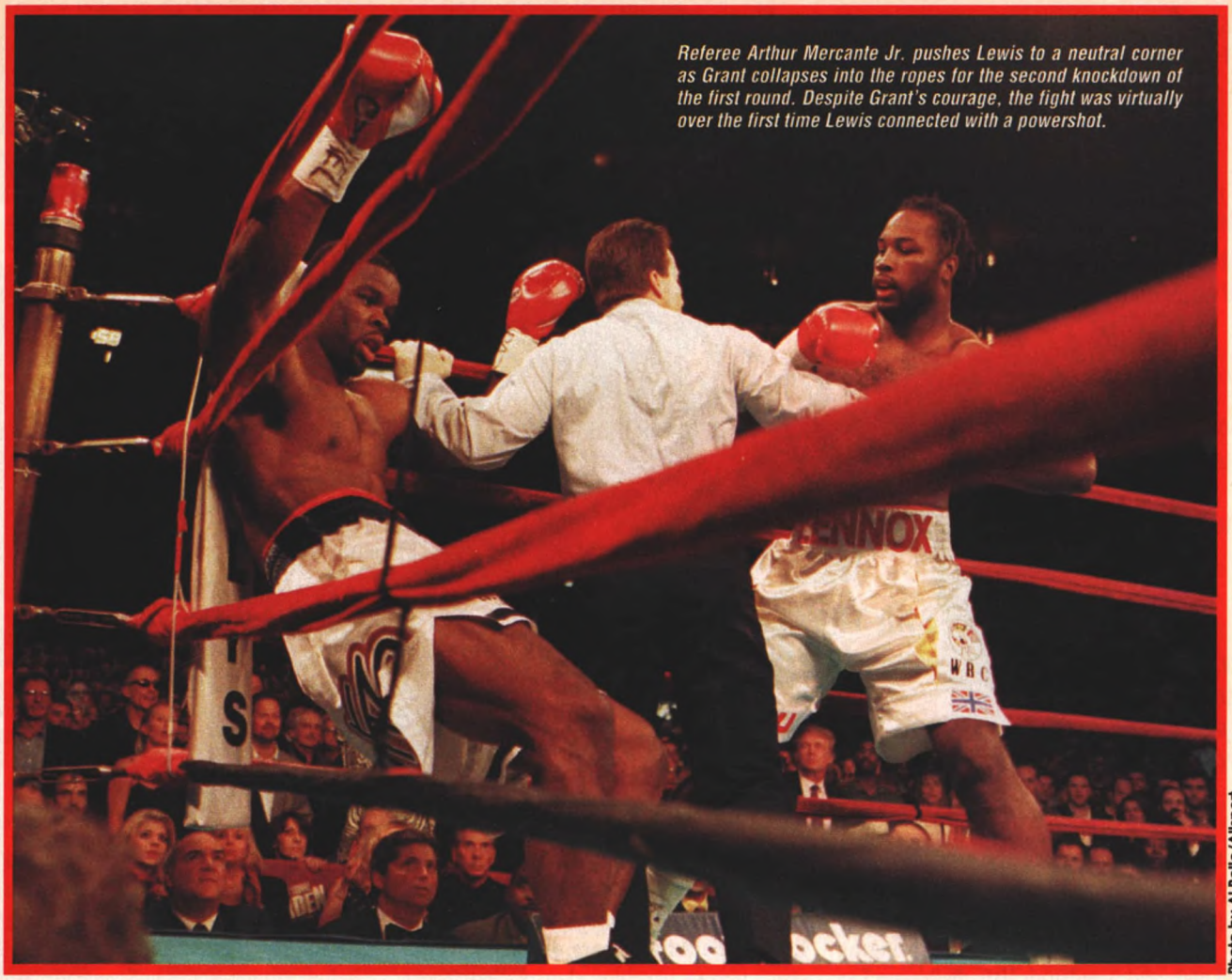
"I'm very satisfied," said Steward. "Lennox did what I knew he could. [Grant's] inexperience really showed in close. He didn't know what to do. He was just there to get hit."

Television: TVKO

Promoters: Main Events, Panix Promotions

(4-29-00)

—NC



Referee Arthur Mercante Jr. pushes Lewis to a neutral corner as Grant collapses into the ropes for the second knockdown of the first round. Despite Grant's courage, the fight was virtually over the first time Lewis connected with a powershot.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

History tells us that you don't have to be a wildly entertaining fighter to be considered great, even among the heavyweights. Except for his brawls with Harry Greb, Gene Tunney's fights weren't exactly thrillers, but "The Fighting Marine's" skill and accomplishments were still good enough to earn him a plaque in Canastota and the 15th spot in the aforementioned all-time ratings. Legendary champions Jack Johnson and Muhammad Ali also fought their share of stinkers, but unlike Lewis, found other ways to titillate the paying public.

Quality of opposition is always vital when judging a fighter. Some heavyweight champions, such as Rocky Marciano, tallied a majority of their marquee wins after their most famous opponents—Joe Louis, Jersey Joe Walcott, Ezzard Charles, Archie Moore—were over the hill. Lewis, on the other hand, with the exception of Holyfield, has beaten nearly all of his significant adversaries when they were either at or near the top of their game. Cynics would say that regardless of what stage of their careers they were in when Lewis fought them, most of his victims were nobodies to start with. But that's not fair or entirely true. Ray Mercer, Tommy Morrison, Ruddock, Golota, and Grant were all fighters of some merit, if not exactly Hall of Famers. And let's not forget that Lewis won the Olympic gold medal by stopping Riddick Bowe, a fighter who threw his WBC title belt in the trash can rather than honor an agreement to face his amateur conqueror in the pros.

Statistically, Lewis also measures up rather well, and while numbers, in and of themselves, mean less in boxing than in most other sports, his stats are, nonetheless, impressive. Lewis' 36 wins in 38 fights gives him a 95 percent winning percentage, with a 75 percent knockout ratio. He's 10-1-1 (6) in heavyweight championship fights, which compares favorably with his most prestigious contemporaries, Holyfield, Tyson, and Bowe, whose heavyweight title fight stats are 9-3-1 (4), 12-3 (10), and 3-1 (2), respectively.

So where does all this leave Lewis at this juncture? Well, he's unquestionably done enough since THE RING's Fab 50 of several years ago to crack the top 20, and at a well-preserved 34 (he'll be 35 on September 2), there's plenty of time left for him to either advance or fall back, depending on what he does the next few years. The best way for Lewis to ensure an even higher all-time ranking would be to clean up what's left of the division, and with Ike Ibeabuchi's future in the hands of the court, that leaves David Tua and Tyson.

Lewis, who has never ducked anybody, definitely sounded amenable to taking on both Tua and Tyson when he spoke to the media at the postfight press conference following the Grant blowout. He said that "Tua deserves a shot before [John] Ruiz," a pointed reference to the WBA's decision

Proud manager Frank Maloney (center) poses with Lewis and stablemate Paul Ingle, who defended the IBF featherweight title on the Lewis-Grant undercard, stopping Junior Jones in the 11th round.

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

to strip him of its belt and sanction a bout between Ruiz and Holyfield for the vacant title.

Opening discussions about bringing Lewis and mandatory IBF challenger Tua together later this year have already begun, but they are in the embryonic stage, and next up will be Frans Botha in London on July 15. "The White Buffalo" doesn't present much of a threat and a victory over him won't enhance Lewis' all-time ranking, but Botha is a brave and honest workman, and a powerful performance against him won't hurt the reigning champ's case either.

Despite the eroded state of his game, Tyson still presents a benchmark by which all heavyweights from the late-1980s and '90s are be measured—and despite the fact that it's now the year 2000, Lewis is of that generation. Tyson is also the fighter who could bring Lewis, already a very rich man, his largest payday. As Lewis fights for HBO/TVKO and Tyson toils for Showtime/SET, politically, it won't be an easy fight to make. But as Lewis noted, it's the kind of fight that could generate enough money to appease all sides. "His fans, my fans; it's a fight the whole world wants to see," said the champ.

We'll leave in-depth analysis of Lewis vs. Tyson and Tua until the matches are signed. Although many maintain that Lewis would have more difficulty with short, vicious-punching sluggers like Tua and Tyson than he did with the elongated Grant, the right uppercut that spelled doom for the previously undefeated "Norristown Nice Guy" is just the weapon for dealing with squat targets.

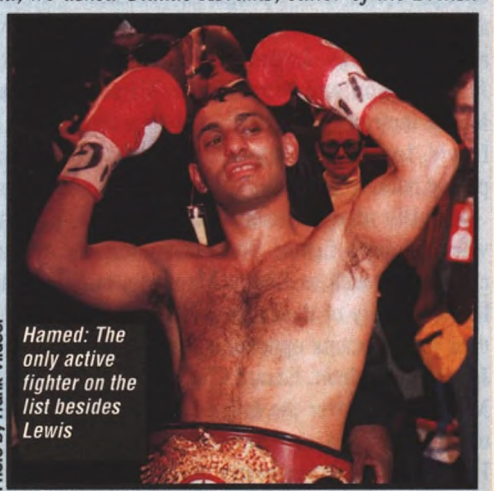
Before leaving Madison Square Garden

(Continued on page 57)

THE BEST OF BRITAIN

While we'll have to wait until after Lennox Lewis' career is over to ascertain his final resting place in heavyweight history, it's already clear that he ranks very high on the list of Britain's all-time greats. To get a better handle on how Lewis is perceived by boxing experts back home in England, we asked Claude Abrams, editor of the British weekly ***Boxing News,*** *to give us his top-10 British fighters of all-time. Here's Abrams' list:*

1. **Ted "Kid" Lewis**
2. **Lennox Lewis**
3. **Jimmy Wilde**
4. **Ken Buchanan**
5. **Jackie "Kid" Berg**
6. **Randy Turpin**
7. **Benny Lynch**
8. **Naseem Hamed**
9. **John Conteh**
10. **Howard Winstone**



Hamed: The only active fighter on the list besides Lewis

Photo by Frank Vitucci

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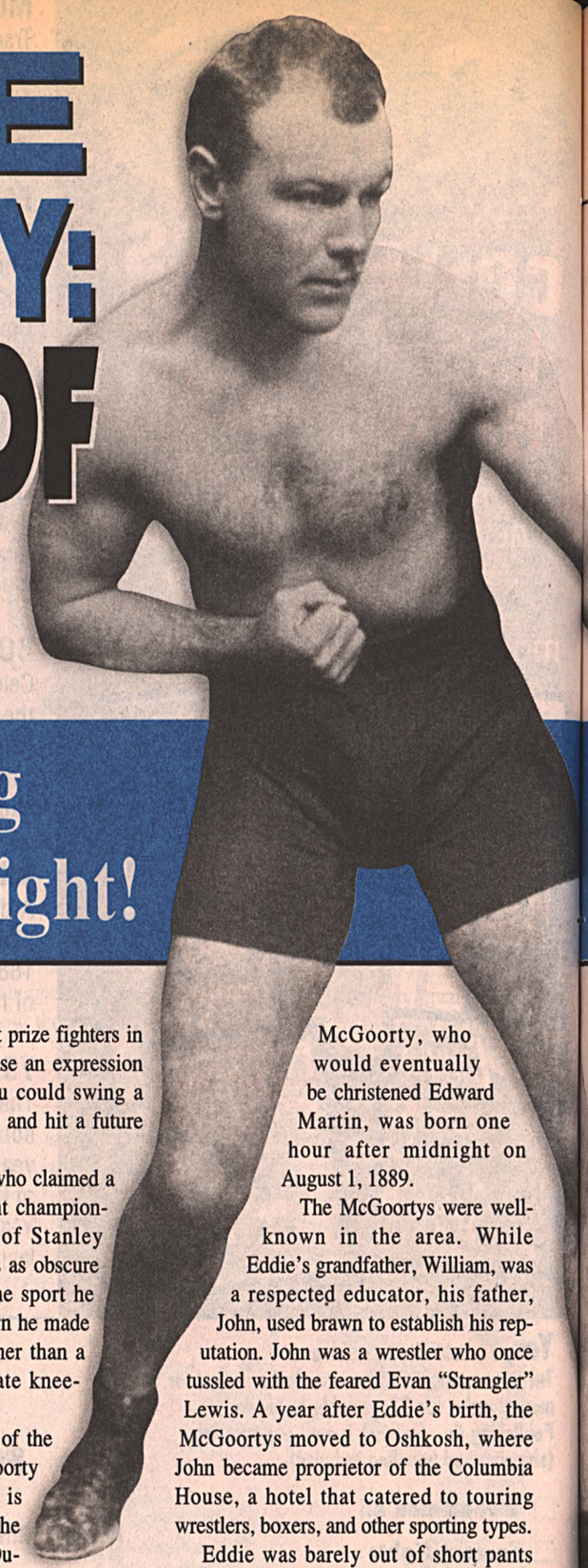
EDDIE McGOORTY: "THE IDOL OF OSHKOSH"

He Started Fighting For Cash At Age Eight!



By Pete Ehrmann

They're high school kids who straggle in every year in search of help with a homework assignment to write a "speech to inform" on a topic relating to local history. Some get the file on the guy who taught Bob Hope to play golf. The luckier ones get the file on Eddie McGoorty.

"You never heard of him," Mara Munroe tells them at the public library in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, "but you ought to have."

Indeed. Ninety years ago, the man called "The Oshkosh Terror" achieved more fame globally than even the Menominee Indian chief for whom the city of about 60,000 residents on the shore of Lake Winnebago was named. Both were warriors, but while the venerable Chief Oshkosh actually became better known for his peaceable endeavors, there was nothing peaceable about the left hook that made McGoorty one of the best prize fighters in an era when, to paraphrase an expression popular at that time, you could swing a dead cat in any direction and hit a future Hall of Famer.

Yet today, the boxer who claimed a slice of the middleweight championship in the aftermath of Stanley Ketchel's assassination is as obscure and unknown even in the sport he graced as he is in the town he made famous as something other than a vaudevilian's boiler-plate knee-slapper.

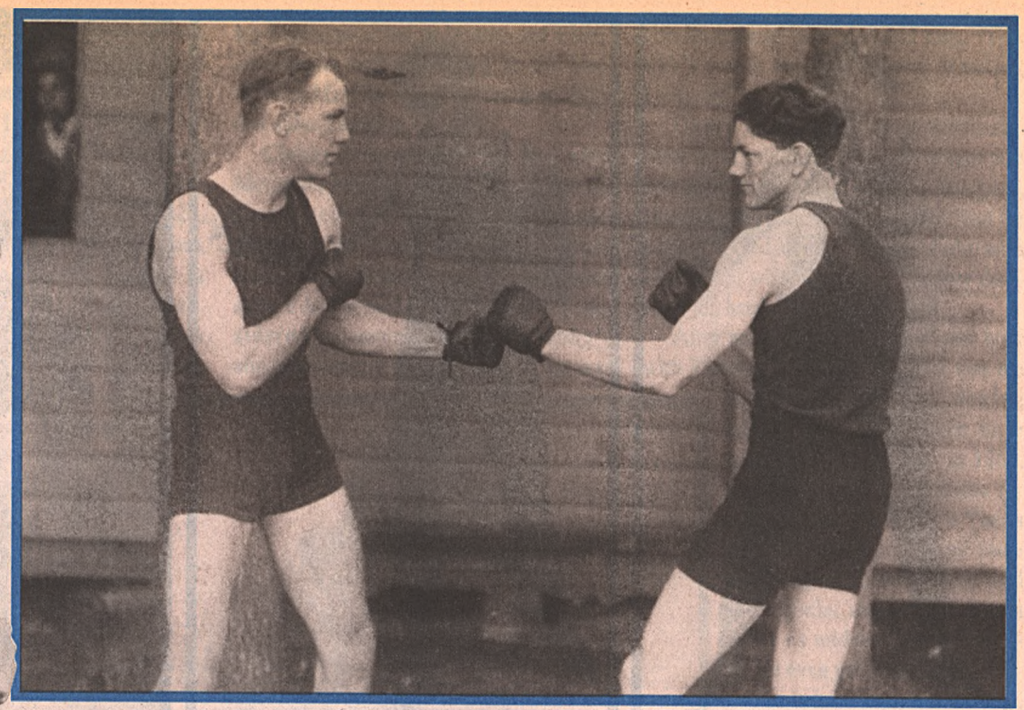
On top of that, much of the information about McGoorty in boxing record books is inaccurate, such as that he was born Edward Van Dusart in the town of Eureka, west of Oshkosh, on July 31, 1889. The place of birth is correct, but according to his official birth certificate, "Unnamed" McGoorty, who would eventually be christened Edward Martin, was born one hour after midnight on August 1, 1889.

The McGoortys were well-known in the area. While Eddie's grandfather, William, was a respected educator, his father, John, used brawn to establish his reputation. John was a wrestler who once tussled with the feared Evan "Strangler" Lewis. A year after Eddie's birth, the McGoortys moved to Oshkosh, where John became proprietor of the Columbia House, a hotel that catered to touring wrestlers, boxers, and other sporting types.

Eddie was barely out of short pants when his father started training him for a career in the ring. When he was eight years old, one of his jobs was using his fists to clear out riff-raff loitering at the hotel's entrance. It's likely that John also had him fighting for money in secret, illegal matches long before 15-year-old Eddie earned his first prominent notices by winning two bouts in an amateur tournament in Milwaukee on December 17, 1904.

"Out of the 10 men on the card, Eddie McGoorty of Oshkosh, who won the 130-pound class meet, showed the best," reported the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, "and with a little better coaching should develop into a fairly clever boxer, although his standing as an amateur is somewhat shady."

McGoorty made it official on August 6, 1905, knocking out Young Schumacher in two rounds to launch a career that went until 1922 and made him a hero far beyond the Sawdust City.



McGoorty (left) squares off with Jimmy Clabby, who was both a friend and a rival. The pair fought each other three times and also went into business together, manufacturing women's handbags.

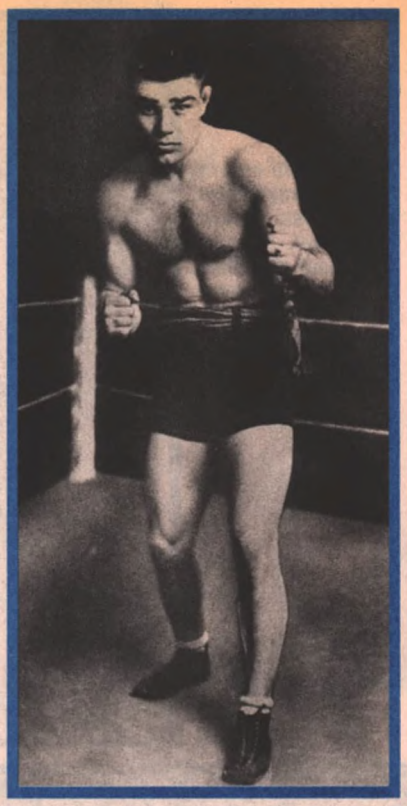
McGoorty was 10 years old when this photograph was taken, but the precocious pugilist actually began boxing when he was eight. His early start was fostered by his father, who was a former wrestler.

Boxing was technically illegal in Wisconsin until 1913, but bouts were nonetheless held openly throughout the state, and the Oshkosh prodigy quickly became a drawing card in his hometown, as well as the nearby cities of Appleton, Fond du Lac, and Green Bay.

"The leg exhibition given by McGoorty was one of the most clever features of its kind ever seen here," said the *Appleton Daily Post* after McGoorty defeated Paddy Norton in six rounds there on March 8, 1906. "The boy is very active on his feet and when apparently cornered would suddenly appear in the center of the ring."

Former featherweight champion Eddie Santry of Chicago became McGoorty's trainer in '08, and before the year was out was touting his unbeaten 19-year-old protege as an opponent for top middleweight contender Billy Papke, "The Illinois Thunderbolt," who was scheduled to fight world champion Ketchel, "The Michigan Assassin," in Milwaukee on June 4 of that year.

Ketchel wanted to hire the teenaged sensation as a sparring partner, but McGoorty ended up with Papke instead after the challenger trumped Ketchel's offer by sending McGoorty traveling expenses to his training camp. A solid friendship developed between McGoorty and Papke (who would lose to Ketchel in



McGoorty fought many famous fighters during his career, including, from left to right, Mike Gibbons, Battling Levinsky, and Jack Dillon. His four-bout series with Hall of Famer Dillon was particularly memorable.

Milwaukee, and then win and lose the title back to him that same year) that went deeper than their competing claims to the middleweight title after Ketchel was murdered by farmhand Walter Dipley on October 15, 1910.

By then McGoorty was an international star himself. He went undefeated through late-1909 and boasted the "Northwestern middleweight championship" when he went to Great Britain in the fall of that year in search of a match with British champion Tom Thomas.

Thomas wanted nothing to do with the 20-year-old phenomenon who, it was written, must've developed his astounding agility by "doing a buck-and-wing on a red hot stove." But by the time McGoorty returned stateside in the spring of '10, he claimed the Irish heavyweight title by dint of his easy 20-round victory over P.O. Curran, who outweighed him by about 50 pounds. (Fighting heavyweights never bothered McGoorty, who did so throughout his career because "there will be more to hit at.")

Both McGoorty's talent and his demeanor were admired in the cradle of pugilism. "His record is unique for a boy of his years," said the British publication *Sport*, adding that McGoorty "has shown us that a boxer need not necessarily be a social pariah."

Back home, McGoorty impressed with a strong showing against middleweight contender Hugo Kelley in a no-decision bout in Milwaukee, and on December 16, he faced another ring prodigy from Frankfort, Indiana, in the first of what would turn into a memorable four-bout series with future light heavyweight champion and Hall of Fame member Jack Dillon.

McGoorty had lost just once, an outrageous decision to Tom Sullivan in England that he easily reversed in a rematch, while Dillon, just 19 himself, was undefeated when they met in Fond du Lac in a match that had definite occult overtones.

"Notwithstanding his thick-set neck, his square shoulders, the muscular development of his back, and his prodigious forearm," gushed the *Fond du Lac Commonwealth*, "the most wonderful thing about Dillon is his eyes. Perhaps hypnotism or mesmerism doesn't play the biggest part in a prize fight, but whatever the hypnotic eye may contribute to the game, Dillon has more than his share. Deep-set beneath heavy brows and a crown of jet black hair, Dillon's pale blue eyes—or are they some mysterious gray?—shoot a cold, piercing stare like a dart of steel straight through the eyes of his adversary. Tiger eyes, they are—cunning, cold, and calculating."

"If Dillon expects to get the hocus-pocus gag on me and have me chasing butterflies through snow banks, someone is going to get mighty fooled," said McGoorty, who would win a 10-round decision.

Ketchel was in the ground by then, and at least six middleweights were advertising themselves as his successor. According to the *Winnipeg Saturday Post*, McGoorty belonged right up there with his pal Papke, who said he was champion because he was the last breathing guy to have worn the belt. Differing with the draw decision rendered in McGoorty's second fight with Dillon in Winnipeg on January 11, 1911, the publication's boxing writer said of the Oshkosh man, "he leads straight, fast, and hard. He is splendidly built and throws his weight into his blows. He is steady and cool and, seeming to back up, is really making ready to jump in with a good welt for the other fellow. I

like his looks, and if he can stand a bunch of punishment—a bigger bunch than Dillon can hand out, I mean—he has the call, next to Papke, I think."

The *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern* had a better idea. "Eddie Is Champion," proclaimed the headline in the March 21, 1912, edition after McGoorty was given a newspaper decision over Hugo Kelly in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the day before. McGoorty's claim was strengthened when he knocked out Dave Smith and Jack Harrison, the respective Australian and British middleweight champions, in successive bouts at Madison Square Garden in New York that September.

When McGoorty and Mike Gibbons, another superb midwesterner called "The St. Paul Phantom," were matched at the Garden on December 4, it was advertised as a contest for what was then the 158-pound world title. McGoorty won the newspaper decision, but the fight was so drab that critics decided Papke was the champion after all, despite losses to Cyclone Johnny Thompson and Bob Moha.

Jimmy Clabby was an impeccable boxer who'd been briefly recognized in Australia as welterweight champion in 1910. He and McGoorty were old friends who'd trained together in Wisconsin and England and knew one another's style so well that their May 2, 1913, fight in Denver was proclaimed "one of the fastest and most scientific battles ever staged in Colorado." The draw decision was sanctified by no less than ex-heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan at ringside. McGoorty thus retained his tenuous claim to the title, although, as *The Milwaukee Journal* noted a few days later, the question of who deserved to be called middleweight champion "caused more lung exercise among the debating teams of the various societies in the pugilistic national league the last few weeks than the average man would get out of politics, baseball, and football in a year."

Frank Klaus of Pittsburgh had won partial recognition as champion by beating Papke on a foul in March, and Klaus' six-rounder with McGoorty in the Steel City on May 24 was a no-decision affair that solved nothing.

Clabby was saved by the bell after McGoorty knocked him down twice in the first round of their rematch in Butte, Montana, on June 13, but then boxed from a distance and won a 12-round decision. If he claimed the title, it wasn't considered as newsworthy as Clabby's announcement a week later that he was thinking of running for mayor of Hammond, Indiana.

Although considered by many historians as Wisconsin's greatest boxer of all-time, McGoorty is virtually a forgotten man in his home state. So far, he has also been ignored by the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Back on February 12, McGoorty had twice knocked down, and broken the nose of, a fighter called Barney Williams in a six-round match in Pittsburgh. When they met in New York City on September 10, 1913, Williams went down in the first, but came back so fiercely that the fans at St. Nicholas Rink were on their feet at the bell ending the round.

Williams' new manager, Dan Morgan, was so impressed by his man's heart that between rounds he called ring announcer Joe Humphries over and told him, "This guy's name from now on is Battling Levinsky."

Under the new moniker, Levinsky went on to win the light heavyweight title and fight such worthies as Jack Dempsey, Harry Greb, and Gene Tunney. But he always called that New York fight with McGoorty, who won the newspaper decision, the hardest one he ever had.

After another close, no-decision bout with Klaus on September 29 that was the first officially legal boxing match held in Milwaukee since the sport was outlawed in 1869, McGoorty sailed to Australia for a series of bouts. On New Year's Day, 1914, he knocked out Dave Smith again in one round and won official recognition Down Under as middleweight champion. He even got a belt.

The belt he kept, but the title, such as it was, went to fellow American Jeff Smith after their March 14 fight in Sydney. McGoorty was actually declared the winner, but the crowd and promoter Snowy Baker disagreed with the referee's decision, and the latter sent telegrams abroad announcing Smith as the new champion. Nevertheless, it was reported as a title match when McGoorty fouled out to Clabby in their third match, in Sydney on July 4.

Champion or no, when McGoorty came home on October 22, after being away just shy of a year, he was met at the railway station by several thousand fans who paraded him behind a brass band around downtown Oshkosh.

"I thought I was royally treated in Australia," said the emotional conquering hero, "but nothing ever hit me like this ... I tell you, a welcome like this in Oshkosh is something I'm proud of."

But McGoorty felt at home in kangaroo country, too. "The Australians certainly know how to use a fellow," he said. "I never heard of such fine treatment. The Australians are real sports, and boxing and horse racing are their favorite amuse-

(Continued on page 62)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Lennox Lewis KO 2 Michael Grant
(Retains WBC & IBF Titles)
Vassiliy Jirov KO 2 Esteban Pizarro
(Non-Title Bout)
Oleg Maskaev KO 4 Derrick Jefferson
Hasim Rahman KO 7 Corrie Sanders
Andrew Golota KO 3 Marcus Rhode
Cliff Etienne W 10 Lamon Brewster
Wladimir Klitschko KO 2 David Bostice
Sedreck Fields W 8 Shannon Briggs
Vaughn Bean KO 1 Tim Ray
Brian Nielsen KO 5 Jeremy Williams
Ed Mahone KO 4 Mario Cawley
Samson Po'uha KO 8 Louis Monaco
Frankie Swindell D 10 Al Cole
Tim Witherspoon D 12 Mike Sedillo
Wade Lewis KO 1 Quinta McMath
Butterbean KO 2 Bill Johnson

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Juan Carlos Gomez KO 3 Imamu Mayfield
(Retains WBC Title)
Carl Thompson KO 6 Alain Simon
Louis Azille KO 9 Terry Porter
William Guthrie W 8 John Kiser

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Roy Jones KO 11 Richard Hall
(Retains WBA/WBC/IBF Titles)
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 9
Graciano Rocchigiani
Montell Griffin W 12 Jose Luis Rivera
Greg Wright KO 1 Dominick Carter
Derrick Harmon W 8 Wesley Martin
Will Taylor KO 7 Dennis McKinney
Clinton Woods KO 9 Ole Klemetsen
Justin Clements D 12 Billy Lewis
Jacqui Frazier-Lyde KO 4 Norma Galloway

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Glenn Catley KO 12 Markus Beyer
(Wins WBC Title)
Richie Woodhall KO 8 Errol McDonald
Guillermo Jones W 10 Allen Watts
Dana Rosenblatt Tech. Draw 2 Jim Crawford
Silvio Branco W 12 Glen Johnson
Andrei Schkalikov KO 5 Anatoly Kanaev
Eric Lucas KO 6 John Lennox Lewis
Tony Adams W 10 Jeff Johnson
Laila Ali KO 4 Kristina King

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Bernard Hopkins W 12 Syd Vanderpool
(Retains IBF Title)
William Joppy KO 1 Rito Ruvalcaba
(Retains WBA Title)
Keith Holmes KO 11 Robert McCracken
(Retains WBC Title)
Antwun Echols KO 7 Lionel Ortiz
Robert Allen KO 3 Shannon Miller
Tony Ayala KO 4 Jorge Vado
Tony Ayala KO 2 Gerald Coleman
Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 9 Juan Italo Meza
J.C. Candelo KO 4 Mario Iribarren
Tito Mendoza KO 8 Fidel Avendano

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Fernando Vargas W 12 Ike Quartey
(Retains IBF Title)
Francisco Castillejo KO 3 Juan Rondon
(Non-Title Fight)
Bronco McKart KO 1 James Mason
Arturo Gatti KO 2 Eric Jakubowski
Rodney Jones W 8 Eric Holland
Jason Papillion W 12 Anthony Jones
Kevin Kelly Tech. Win 4 Darren Maciunski
Fred Pendleton KO 1 Gilberto Flores
Shibata Flores W 12 Paul Vaden
Willy Wise W 8 Julian Holland
Robert Frazier W 8 Benji Singleton
Pedro Ortega W 10 Pat Coleman
Santiago Samaniego W 10 Kenny Ellis
Adrian Stone KO 5 Michael Carruth

WELTERWEIGHTS

Shannan Taylor W 10 Sean Sullivan
Daniel Santos KO 5 Ahmed Katejev
Michele Piccirillo W 12 Walter Crucce
Phillip Holiday Tech. Draw 4 Gerald Reed
Michel Trabant KO 2 Carlos Montero
Charles Murray KO 8 Sam Harvey
Jorge Paez KO 4 Angel Aldama

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Antonio Diaz KO 11 Ivan Robinson
Reggie Green W 10 Gerald Reed
Vince Phillips D 12 Ricky Quiles
Ray Oliveira KO 2 Miguel Rojas
Diobelys Hurtado W 12 Cosme Rivera
Eamonn Magee KO 8 David Kirk
David Sample W 12 Isaac Cruz
Oktay Urkal KO 10 Ferenc Szakallas

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Paul Spadafora Tech. Win 10 Mike Griffith
(Retains IBF Title)
Angel Manfredy KO 2 Shawn Simmons
Angel Manfredy KO 1 Jerry Cooper
James Leija KO 3 Jorge Luis Lopez
John Brown W 10 Juan Carlos Suarez

Billy Irwin KO 2 Ruben Oliva
John-John Molina W 10 Emanuel Burton
Stefano Zoff KO 5 Manuel Gomez
Israel Cardona KO 5 Steve Larrimore
Juan Lazcano KO 8 Eduardo Perez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Joel Casamayor KO 5 Jongkwon Baek
(Wins WBA Title)
Derrick Gainer W 10 Sean Fletcher
Wilfredo Vazquez KO 4 Russell Mosley
Scott Harrison W 10 Tracy Patterson
Calvin Davis W 10 Theon Holland
Daniel Jimenez W 10 Benjamin Arason
Zahir Raheem W 8 Russell Stoner Jones

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Paul Ingle KO 11 Junior Jones
(Retains IBF Title)
Guty Espadas Tech. Win 11 Luisito Espinosa
(Wins Vacant WBC Title)
Juan Manuel Marquez W 12 Roque Cassiani
Manuel Medina W 10 Frankie Toledo
Istvan Kovacs KO 2 Ismael Lopez
Phillip Ndou KO 10 Edgar Barcenas
Pastor Maurin KO 2 Remigio Molina
Tom Johnson W 10 Agustin Lorenzo
Gary Thornhill KO 8 Richie Wenton

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Danny Romero W 12 Jorge Munoz
Jose Rojas W 10 John Michael Johnson
Patrick Mullings KO 12 Vladimir Borov
Andrian Kaspari KO 3 Anatoly Kvitko

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Johnny Tapia W 12 Javier Torres
Mauricio Martinez KO 4 Jorge Reyes
Rafael Marquez KO 1 Ricardo Barrera
Debind Thapa W 8 Rogers Mtagwa

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

In Joo Cho W 12 Julio Cesar Avila
(Retains WBC Title)
Hideki Todaka KO 11 Yokthai Sithoar
(Retains WBA Title)
Julio Gamboa D 12 Felix Machado
(For Vacant IBF Title)
Vernie Torres W 12 Ramon Euroza

FLYWEIGHTS

Malcolm Tunacao KO 7
Medgoen Toyota-Thailand
(Wins WBC Title)
Xolile Mbityi W 12 Sandro Oviedo
Oscar Andrade W 12 Gilberto Keb-Baas

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Fernando Luna KO 9 Paulino Villalobos
Ndoda Mayende W 12 Vuyisile Bebe

STRAWWEIGHTS

Makoto Suzuki KO 8 Masanori Suga

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Vargas didn't allow either the assault case hanging over his head or Ike Quartey's reputation distract him from the job at hand, and turned in the finest performance of his career, emphatically outpointing the former WBA welterweight champion over 12 riveting rounds. And while he also tallied his fourth defense of the IBF junior middleweight title in the process, as far as "Ferocious Fernando" was concerned, the best part about it was the fact that he had beaten Quartey more convincingly than arch-rival Oscar De La Hoya had when "The Golden Boy" tangled with the African strongman in February 1999.

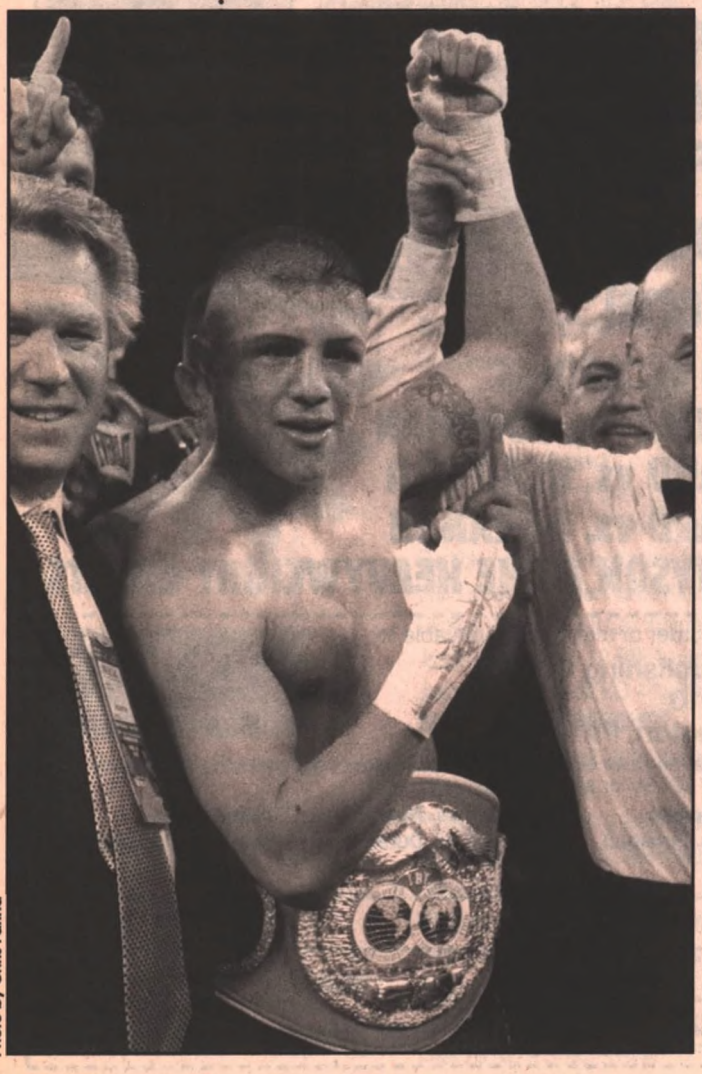


Photo by Chris Farina

In Quartey, Vargas was fighting a man with far better credentials than anyone else he'd faced in his three-year pro career, and considering his ragged showing against Winky Wright in his previous fight, there were a lot of people who thought the more experienced Quartey would be too much for him. But Vargas responded with a focused, well-considered effort, outboxing and outpunching Quartey in an eye-catching performance that moved him another step closer to superstardom and earned him THE RING's Fighter of the Month honors.

• • • •

Fernando Vargas

Vargas puts the pressure on Quartey

Photo by Craig Moran/Allsport

The fight was entertaining as the two stood in front of each other and fired, but it was almost always Vargas who got the better of the exchanges. In the final round, with Vargas, 19-0 (17), comfortably ahead, it was he who went out and picked up the pace, while Quartey, 34-2-1 (29), seemed content to treat the 12th as just another round. Vargas blistered Quartey in the 12th with a right-left-right combination to the head and then added a strong left hook to the body, the assault serving as a microcosm of the fight itself.

"Ike Quartey is a warrior and a great champion, but I wasn't going to be denied," said Vargas, who immediately began calling for a fight with WBA super welterweight champion Felix Trinidad.

Television: HBO
Promoter: Main Events
(4-15-00)
Kevin Iole

Fernando Vargas W 12 Ike Quartey

Las Vegas, Nevada: Vargas was bleeding from the nose, and his left eye was swollen grotesquely. Nevertheless, a huge grin creased his face—and well it should have.

Vargas stood toe-to-toe with the most dangerous fighter he has ever faced and won going away, pounding out a unanimous decision over Quartey at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in an action-packed fight. The bout came down to the fact that Vargas appeared to want it more and was willing to work harder to get it. He threw more and landed more and, when the fight got into the championship rounds, it was Vargas who appeared to be the one fighting with passion. Judges Jerry Roth and Dave Moretti had it 116-111 for Vargas, while Glen Hamada had it 114-113. THE RING card favored Vargas, 116-111.

The 22-year-old Vargas had only 18 professional fights to his credit and was taking a huge step up in class against Quartey, 30, but it was clear early that Vargas wasn't out of his league. He stood in front of Quartey, 152, Ghana, and managed to land a series of straight right hands, as well as a number of telling bodyshots. Vargas, 153½, Oxnard, California, continued to work the body throughout, even after referee Joe Cortez penalized him a point in the fourth round for a low blow.

"I had to go to the body, but I had to be careful because I didn't want to pull a Golota," Vargas said.

Quartey's jab is one of the best in the business, but among the strategies devised by Vargas and his lead trainer, Eduardo Garcia, was for Vargas to try to outjab Quartey. It clearly worked, because while Quartey's jab managed to bloody Vargas' nose late in the fight, Vargas landed more jabs than Quartey and used the lead left to prevent Quartey from getting anything going.

Antonio Diaz KO 11 Ivan Robinson

Diaz said he had been looking for a big-name opponent who would thrust him into contention for a major world title. The 23-year-old from Coachella, California, got his wish in Robinson, who rose to fame with his two thrilling wins over Arturo Gatti in 1998, but, in his first major fight at 140 pounds, didn't have near the same luck. The hard-punching Diaz stopped him at 1:40 of the 11th round.

The first two or three rounds were relatively even, but Diaz began to take over in the fourth with a brutal left hook to the body that made Robinson, 29, wince and nearly sent him to the deck. From that point on, Diaz, 140, had no problems. He waded through whatever Robinson, 139, would throw, knowing the Philadelphian couldn't hurt him, to land big shot after big shot. He had Robinson all but out on his feet several times and had the veteran staggering around the ring in the sixth. Referee Mitch Halpern (USA) seemed about to stop it at that point, but Robinson showed his cunning and managed to tie Diaz up enough to get out of the round. Yet all it did for him was guarantee him more punishment, as Diaz was relentless in his attack.

"I was in total control from the beginning," Diaz said. "I'm surprised he didn't go down. He's no easy fighter."

Nor is Diaz, as he proved in his first HBO fight. He was active, he was accurate, and he was strong. The end came as a clearly worn-down Robinson backed into the corner with Diaz raining blows down upon him in round 11. Halpern shouted several times for Robinson to punch back, but when he didn't, Halpern waved the bout off.

It was a merciful ending for Robinson, 29-4 (11), who simply didn't have the power to keep Diaz off him. For Diaz, it was the

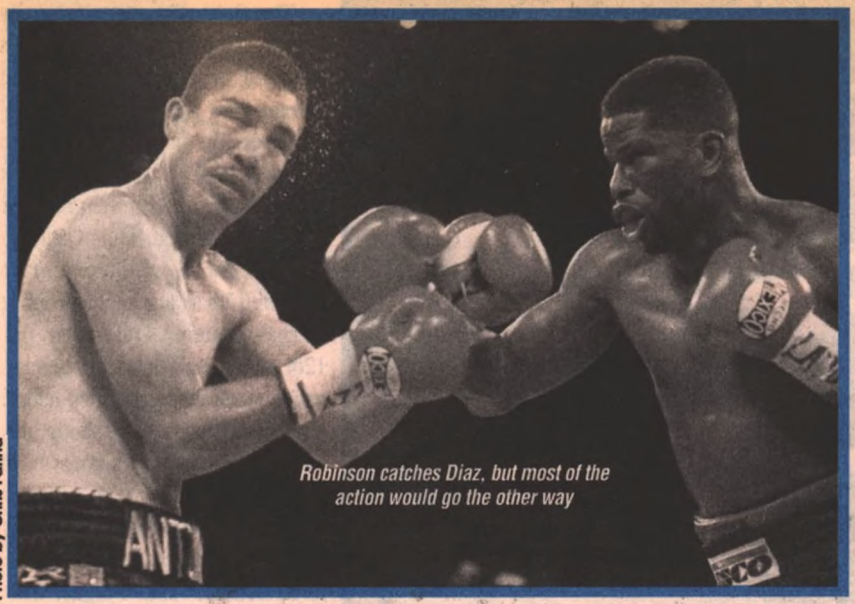


Photo by Chris Farina

Robinson catches Diaz, but most of the action would go the other way

biggest win of his career and probably landed him a date with veteran tough guy Micky Ward.

"I knew Ivan would come to fight and that he wouldn't run," Diaz, 31-2 (22), said. "That's what I wanted, and I knew it would be just a matter of time. I was in control the whole way and I knew that sooner or later, I was going to get him."

Promoters: Main Events, Top Rank
(4-15-00)
Kevin Iole

Dariusz Michalczewski KO 9 Graciano Rocchigiani

Hanover, Germany: Roy Jones may be master of the light heavyweights, but his most logical and threatening opponent continues to be ignored. Michalczewski's promoter, Klaus-Peter Kohl, suggested that Jones has declined a substantial offer to put his reputation on the line against his man, who extended his unbeaten record at the Preussag Arena against former foe Rocchigiani.

When Michalczewski, 175, Germany via Poland, fought Rocchigiani, 175, Germany, in 1996, he achieved a hollow victory, one that continued to dog him until he proved the dominant man in the rematch. Behind on points in the first fight, Michalczewski hit the floor from a punch on the break and refused to continue, winning controversially by disqualification. Four years on, he was intent on beating Rocchigiani conclusively. Even though Rocchigiani quit after the ninth round—during which he suffered the first knockdown of his career—Michalczewski gained victory by the means he desired. He was the better man.

Utilizing his height advantage, Rocchigiani, 36, kept his distance and pumped out a few solid jabs and left crosses in the opening round, but Michalczewski, 31, retaliated with some meaty shots to the body, a tactic he extended into the second. Fighting at close quarters is Rocchigiani's forte, a point emphasized between rounds by Emanuel Steward, who worked his corner after the German spent 14 weeks in camp in America. But Michalczewski proved his aptitude at close quarters, too, and a succession of left uppercuts in the third drew blood from the bridge of his compatriot's nose. The fourth and fifth confirmed his increasing authority, the more solid punches clearly being his despite Rocchigiani remaining slightly the busier.

Heavy jabs and strong straight rights sliced through Rocchigiani's typically high guard in the seventh, and the eighth featured more of the same. In the ninth, Michalczewski got through decisively, a right to the pit of Rocchigiani's belly and a left hook to the ribs sending the challenger down in some distress. American referee Rudy Battle reeled off the mandatory eight-count, and Michalczewski continued to work both head and body before the bell intervened. Rocchigiani, 40-5-1 (19), did not even bother to sit down on his stool. He shook his head, walked across to Michalczewski's corner, and embraced him to signify the end of the fight.

Despite the unsatisfying ending, Steward described it as the best light heavyweight fight he had ever seen. Michalczewski, 42-0 (32), again called for Jones to meet his challenge.

Promoter: Universum-Box
(4-15-00)
Brian Doogan

Bruno Girard W 12 Byron Mitchell

Paris, France: Home turf saved Mitchell, 167, Ozark, Alabama, when he escaped with a draw against Girard, 167, France, last December, and it had a bearing here in the rematch. For some, the 26-year-old American appeared to have done enough to hold on again to the WBA super middleweight title, but all three judges scored emphatically for the French challenger before 9,000 of his compatriots at the Bercy Omnisports Arena. It was Mitchell's second defense.

Girard's victory means that all three recognized champions at 168 pounds are European. German Sven Ottke holds the IBF belt, and England's Glenn Catley the WBC title. Mitchell felt he should have been flying home with the WBA title, but was left to rue the fact that he released the early initiative he seized by punching with customary authority though never with the frequency that might have overwhelmed his opponent.

"I thought I edged him earlier and tried to stay relaxed, but he came on stronger and stronger and got the edge," the ex-champ said afterward. "I tried to stick to my game plan, which was to box behind the jab."

He did this effectively in the opening round, complementing the steady stream of jabs with a right hand that put the mandatory challenger in reverse mode, having caused damage to the bridge of his nose. Mitchell, 20-1-1 (16), was blocking most of Girard's retaliatory blows, too. The more solid punching was being done by Mitchell, who landed a fast three-punch combination in the fourth, but Girard, 37-3-1 (5), answered back swiftly with a flurry that brought blood from the champion's nose. At this stage, though, the challenger was clearly behind.

Having slugged with the heavier punching Mitchell for much

Girard slips a straight left under a Mitchell right

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

of their first encounter, Girard, 29, showed much more movement the second time around. Mitchell, who won the title from Frankie Liles in June '99 with an 11th-round TKO, was forced to carry the action. But he was frequently made to miss, and Girard came more into the fight, countering well with sharp, effective shots.

Frustration crept into Mitchell's work, allowing Girard to take charge. When he took the ninth, 10th, and 11th rounds, he felt he could coast the last and still win, which is exactly what he did. Jesus Cova (Uruguay) and Gustavo Padillo (Panama) both scored 116-113 for Girard, while Jose Laurino (Uruguay) had it 117-114. THE RING had Mitchell just shading it, 115-114.

"I am delighted to have won the title," said Girard. "I feel I should have won it the first time, but this more than makes up for it, winning in front of my own fans."

Mitchell will press for a rubber match.

Television: Showtime

Promoters: AB Stars Productions, Don King Productions

(4-8-00)

Brian Doogan

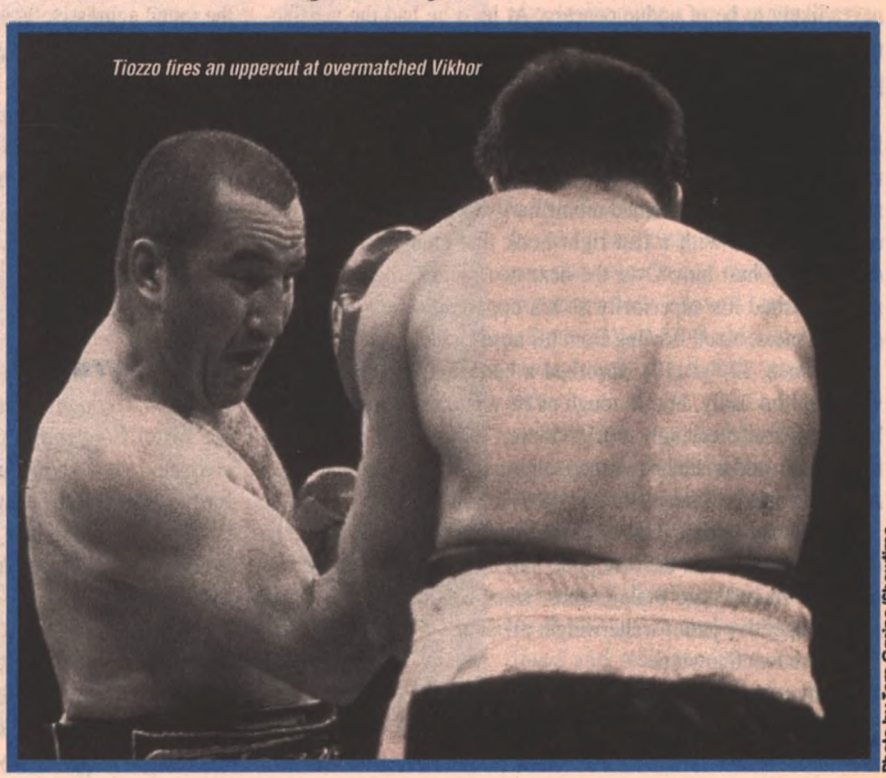
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 6 Valery Vikhor

Paris, France: Unless Tiozzo, 188½, France, engages in a unification bout soon, there is little point in him hanging around in the cruiserweight division much longer. The heavyweight division provides his long-term goal and it may become a more pressing priority after this. Vikhor, 188, Ukraine, was badly shaken and felled within the first 30 seconds before finally being dispatched at 1:45 of the sixth as Tiozzo retained the WBA cruiserweight title for the fourth time, at the Bercy Omnisports Arena.

Virgil Hill, the only man to have defeated Tiozzo, was originally to have been the Frenchman's opponent and lodged a complaint with the WBA, as this is the second time Tiozzo has been given special dispensation to avoid his mandatory obligations. He would have been a significantly more demanding test for Tiozzo than the outclassed Vikhor turned out to be.

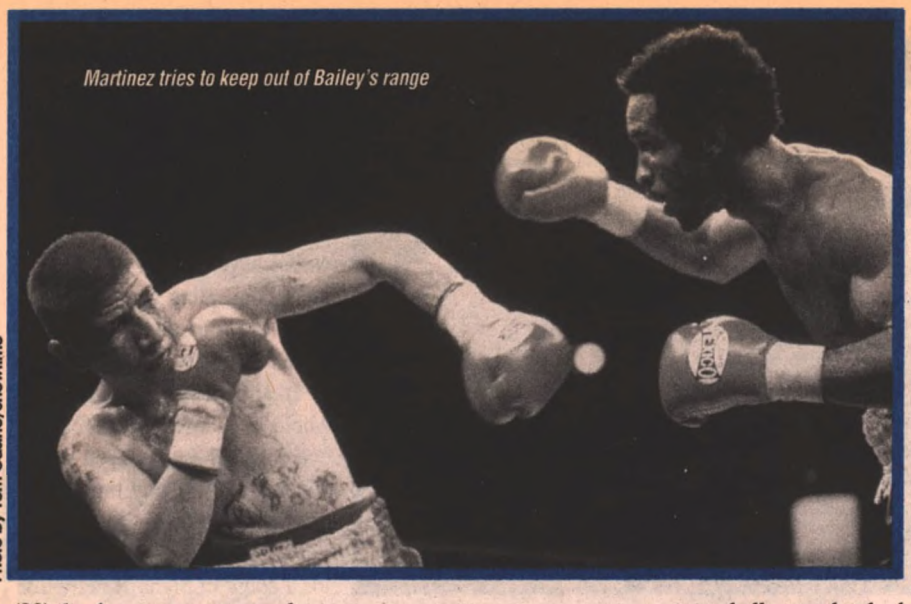
It appeared the Ukrainian would be snuffed out before the opening bell had stopped reverberating. A perfectly timed right counter over a lazy jab knocked the challenger flat on his back for a count of eight. Referee Joe Cortez (USA) thought about intervening as Vikhor, 30-8-4 (14), was badly shaken, but he allowed the bout to continue. The challenger maintained a high guard as Tiozzo launched the onslaught he hoped would bring a first-round stoppage, but Vikhor, who had no higher aspirations than to survive, did precisely that.

Tiozzo, 30, continued to dictate the action with a solid left jab for which Vikhor had no answer. He was negative from the moment he was put on the canvas, his number-two rating a reflection of the dearth of talent in the division as much as of the WBA's lunacy. With blood oozing from the challenger's right eye, Tiozzo put him out of his misery in the sixth with a sustained attack to the head and body before Vikhor, 32, went down wearily. He was up at five, but was clearly of no mind to continue and, having reached eight, referee Cortez waved it over, Tiozzo, 42-1



Tiozzo fires an uppercut at overmatched Vikhor

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime



Martinez tries to keep out of Bailey's range

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

(28), having won every round.

Television: Showtime

Promoters: AB Stars Productions, Don King Productions

(4-8-00)

Brian Doogan

Randall Bailey KO 6 Rocky Martinez

Paris, France: The spectacular finish did not arrive this time, but the perfect record remains intact. Hard-punching Bailey, 139, Miami, Florida, dominated Martinez, 139½, Chicago, Illinois, via Mexico, for the entire six rounds at the Bercy Omnisports Arena before the doctor intervened because of multiple cuts.

All of Bailey's 21 victories have come via the quick route, 16 incredibly within two rounds. Martinez doggedly refused to become the 17th such victim, but his continued presence was never likely to be of undue concern. At least he had the satisfaction of having stayed on his feet, though this was a questionable privilege when the damage to his face became clear afterward.

Bailey, 25, began by pumping out his jab, attempting to establish the range for his devastating rights. But he seemed too eager to get the job done quickly, and his right hand was mostly off the mark. Martinez, 29, switched momentarily to southpaw in the second and landed with a fast right hook that stunned Bailey but didn't really hurt him. Over the next two rounds, though, Bailey re-established his superiority as his opponent's face became a crimson mess, blood flowing from his nose and left eye.

Martinez, 32-4-1 (17), absorbed a hard right in the fifth that wobbled him badly, but, as tough as he was, the lacerations were becoming an increasingly crucial factor. The blood flowed freely in the sixth, and when he returned to his corner, the doctor advised American referee Samuel Viruet (USA) to call it off.

"I hurt my left hand early in the fight and that made it more difficult, but I would have stopped him had he come out for just one more round," said Bailey, whose stock continues to rise in the ever-competitive junior welterweight division.

Television: Showtime

Promoters: AB Stars Productions, Don King Productions

(4-8-00)

Brian Doogan

Lehlo Ledwaba KO 8 Ernesto Grey

Bristol, England: When South Africa's Vuyani Bungu vacated the IBF junior featherweight title after 13 successful defenses to concentrate on a futile challenge of featherweight king Naseem Hamed, few could have envisioned the sudden emergence of a countryman worthy of assuming his mantle. But Ledwaba, 122, already has. Demonstrating his skill and power, he stopped former Bungu foe Grey, 122, Colombia, who lost a debatable decision against the ex-champ in '98, in his second defense, at Whitchurch Sports Center.

Ledwaba proved against his mandatory challenger that he has the tools and temperament to go some way toward achieving the formidable number of successful title defenses made by his celebrated compatriot. He was a cut above anything Grey had to offer.

"If I can be half as good a champion as Vuyani was, I know I'll be going somewhere," Ledwaba said. Grey concurred, declaring that the 28-year-old will prove tough to beat for anyone.

Grey had not come all the way from Colombia to be a compliant victim and showed his intent in the opening few rounds. But his aggressive style was comfortably countered by the elusive South African, who slips and slides much like the prime Pernell Whitaker. The challenger was cut on the top of the head in the second and shaken by a couple of good shots in the third and fourth.

Ledwaba, 30-1-1 (20), opened up in the fifth after Grey began the round aggressively, and a flurry of sharp blows, punctuated by two hard lefts, put the Colombian down and drew blood from above his left eye. Grey lasted the round, but recognized the clear superiority of the champion, who resolved to finish matters in the eighth. A short left put Grey, 24-4 (19), on the canvas again and, though he was up at four, the followup salvo was enough to convince American referee Sam Williams to step in at the 1:20 mark.

Promoter: Golden Fists

(4-7-00)

Brian Doogan

Chris Byrd KO 9 Vitaly Klitschko

Berlin, Germany: Disbelief descended on the German crowd at the Estrel Convention Center when Klitschko, 244, Hamburg, Germany, via Ukraine, quit on his stool and refused to come out for the 10th round, citing a shoulder injury and handing the fight to Byrd, Flint, Michigan. The former Olympic silver medalist had taken the bout on 10 days notice following the withdrawal of Razor Ruddock.

Byrd's career needed reviving after the devastating loss he suffered against Ike Ibeabuchi in March 1999, but against Klitschko, 27-1 (27), he was not considered to have much of a chance despite four straight stoppage victories following his defeat by the big Nigerian. His elusive style might give the 6'8" giant some prob-

lems, so the thinking went, but he would be quickly outgunned and exposed for the pumped-up middleweight many consider him to be.

But the real tale was the manner in which Klitschko was exposed before surrendering. One-dimensional and prone to frustration, he took the easy way out despite a massive lead on the official scorecards.

Predictably, Klitschko dominated the early rounds with his telephone pole left jab and overhand rights, the 29-year-old Byrd's priority being to cover up. A hard right got through in the very first minute, and Byrd, 31-1 (19), looked to be in early trouble before spinning off the ropes. His agility would play a big part. By the third he was coping much better, even countering Klitschko with right jabs and the occasional straight left. And in the fifth, his sharp counters forced Klitschko back, David and Goliath beginning to resemble the original.

As the bout wore on, Klitschko, 28, showed little sign of being able to adapt to his opponent's slippery style, but after nine rounds he was ahead by scores of 89-82, 88-83, and 88-83. What followed was pure drama. Klitschko could be heard complaining to his corner about pain in his left shoulder and insisted that he could not continue. His trainer could not believe what he was hearing and tried to reassure his man, but to no avail as he remained on his stool, claiming later that his shoulder was injured as early as the third round. A tendon in the rotator cuff of Klitschko's left shoulder was operated on at Fleetklinik Hospital in Hamburg, and a full recovery is expected.

"I want to recover completely. Then I will resume training and prove all my critics wrong," Klitschko vowed. "I will regain my [WBO] championship belt." Regaining his credibility will be a different matter.

Television: HBO
Promoter: Universum-Box
(4-1-00)
Brian Doogan

Hideki Todaka KO 11 Yokthai Sithoar

Nagoya, Japan: Rugged and gutsy WBA super flyweight champion Todaka, 114¾, withstood more than his share of solid punches from ex-champ Sithoar, 115, Thailand, in the early rounds, floored him in the eighth, and finally chalked up a TKO win at 38 seconds of the 11th round to retain the title. It was Todaka's second defense since he dethroned Venezuelan Jesus "Kiki" Rojas on a unanimous verdict last July. This entertaining, come-from-behind victory before an estimated 8,500 spectators at the Rainbow Hall raised the Japanese champion's stock significantly.

The fighters mixed it up and swapped strong shots toe-to-toe from the outset. The first two rounds were close and might have been awarded to either man, but it was Sithoar who dominated the third through seventh rounds with his snappier and more effective punches. The Thailander repeatedly caught the shorter champ with stinging lefts and good uppercuts.

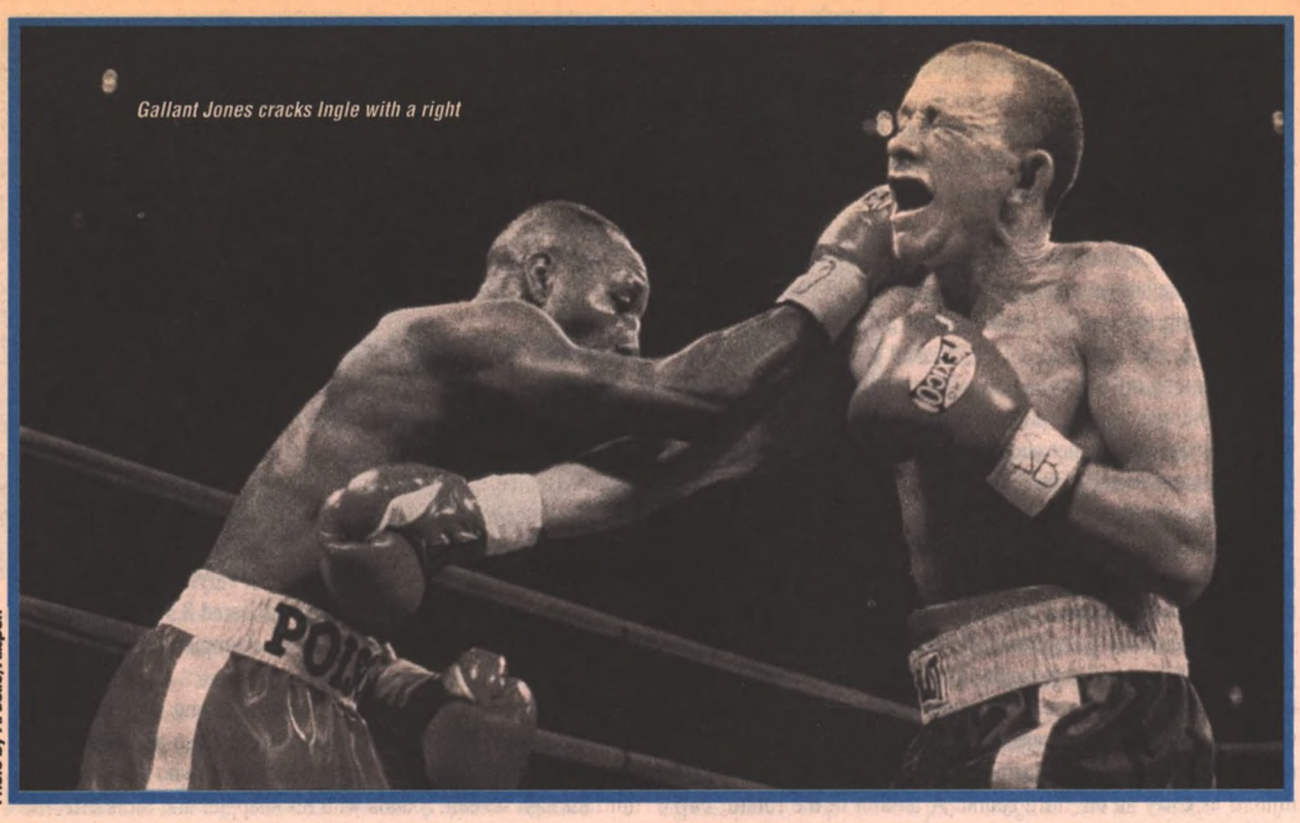
Todaka, however, dropped Sithoar with a vicious overhand right to the face at the bell to end the eighth. Referee Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) gave the mandatory eight-count to the rubbery-legged ex-champ, who, looking like a sleepwalker, barely returned to his corner. The momentum had completely turned in the 27-year-old champ's favor, but he still trailed on all three scorecards.

Todaka kept stalking the obviously fading Thailander from all angles in the ninth and 10th. He was so dominant that, even though he didn't score any more knockdowns, two of the judges tallied 10-8 rounds for the champion in the eighth, ninth, and 10th.

The 11th saw Todaka furiously swarm over his still game but arm-weary opponent. He had the 24-year-old Sithoar, 23-2-1 (14), reeling into the ropes and made him turn his back with a fusillade of punches, prompting the third man to make a very well-timed and well-received stoppage. Through 10 rounds, Todaka, 17-2-1 (8), had nudged into the lead on all cards, as Robert Watson (USA) scored

Photo by Sumio Yamada

Klitschko is consoled after bagging it against Byrd



Gallant Jones cracks Ingle with a right

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

it 95-92, Albert Wilensky (USA) had it 95-93, and Hank Meijers (Netherlands) saw it 94-93.

Promoter: Midori Promotions

(4-23-00)

Joe Koizumi

Paul Ingle KO 11 Junior Jones

New York, New York: In the best fight on the Lennox Lewis-Michael Grant card at Madison Square Garden, Ingle defended the IBF featherweight title for the first time, coming off the floor to stop Junior Jones in the 11th round of a see-saw contest.

For former WBA bantamweight champion Jones, the bout represented probably his final opportunity to win another world title, and he entered the ring in excellent condition, brimming with confidence. But the old bugaboos that have hampered him throughout his career—rickety legs and a weak chin—let him down again.

The 26-year-old Ingle, a craggy little dynamo from Scarborough, England, doesn't look like much, but is a deceptively effective fighter. Even though he comes right after opponents and applies relentless pressure, he isn't an easy target. Ingle has good upper-body movement and keeps his hands glued to his face when not punching. He took the fight to his taller challenger from the start, boring in behind a stiff left jab.

Momentum swung back and forth over the early rounds. Ingle, 23-1 (16), did some good work with his busy left in the third, only to have Jones, 47-5 (27), begin the fourth with a two-handed flurry that briefly backed up the defending champion for the first time. And so it went, with not much to choose between them until the ninth round when Jones drilled the onrushing Ingle with the kind of right hand that enabled him to twice beat Marco Antonio Barrera. The blow caught Ingle square in the face and knocked him on his back, but he popped right back up and was ready to fight following the mandatory eight-count.

Jones, 29, opened up with both hands, gunning for the finish as his supporters among the crowd of 17,324 cheered him on. Ingle absorbed a few more solid shots, especially to the body, but seemed fully recovered by time the round-ending bell sounded.

Ingle rallied in the action-packed 10th, stunning Jones with a left and a right. The Englishman also took some shots, but it was Jones who was showing the effects and wilting fast. At the end of the round, it was clear that the challenger was just about ready to go.

Early in the 11th, Ingle staggered Jones into the ropes with another hook, moved in, and plastered his stricken rival with a series of six clean punches to the head. Jones, eyes glassy, mouth agape, was out on his feet, and only the ropes prevented him from falling.

Referee Steve Smoger (USA) stopped the action and administered an eight-count, but it probably would have been better if he had stopped the fight then and there. Soon after action resumed, Jones' legs betrayed him and he went down again. Smoger ruled that it was a slip and allowed him to fight on, but Jones was so far gone, he wobbled backward across the ring and into the ropes without being hit solidly again, prompting Smoger to finally call a halt at the 1:16 mark.

After 10 completed rounds, Ingle was ahead on two of the three American judges' scorecards, 96-93 (Joe Dwyer) and 95-94 (Don Ackerman), while Don O'Neill had Jones in front, 95-94. THE RING had it even at 95-95.

Ingle's next defense is tentatively scheduled to be on the Lewis-Frans Botha show, July 15, in London. No challenger had been named as of press time.

Television: TVKO

Promoters: Main Events, Panix Promotions

(4-29-00)

Nigel Collins ■

Oscar/Fernando

(Continued from page 37)

he became such a magnet for other fighters. It seemed everybody wanted a shot against The Golden Boy, a chance to earn both serious money and attention.

Then, at age 22, De La Hoya did take a serious title, winning the IBF title with a second-round kayo of outclassed lightweight champ Rafael Ruelas. Inside the ring, De La Hoya was showing off his prodigious power, yet outside the ring he remained somewhat of a pacifist.

"If I have trouble with someone, I just talk to him and make friends," he once told THE RING. "That's the way I've always been."

Vargas says De La Hoya is the kind of kid whose lunch money he used to take away. Vargas likes to tell the story of the day he was suspended from school for fighting. Fishing through TV channels, he came upon young amateurs in the ring. "Before that," he said, "I never knew there was a way to fight and not get in trouble."

For a time, Team Vargas dreamed of cornering more commercial endorsements than De La Hoya, but then Vargas was charged with conspiracy and assault in connection with a disagreement he had over a young woman. You won't find a whole lot of big-time firms eager to connect their products to a possible felon. Vargas' endorsements as well as his career and his life could all be overturned by a conviction. He says he will be vindicated.

De La Hoya is fighting a civil case filed by a young woman who claims he raped her at a condo in Mexico, but no criminal charges were filed and the case does not appear to have damaged his endorsement earnings.

Also, both fighters have fathered children out of wedlock, and both are devoted to them. They are both adept at avoiding marriage.

Some other comparisons:

They both have father trouble. Vargas was raised by his mother, and when he speaks of his father, you see the same dead glare of hatred that's sparked by the mention of De La Hoya. De La Hoya, raised by both parents, has a strained relationship with his demanding father, an ex-fighter who never made the big time.

Vargas' trainer, Eduardo Garcia, plays the role of Vargas' father. Their bond is strong. De La Hoya is friends with his trainer, Robert Alcazar, but their relationship is also business-like. De La Hoya has used many other trainers and demoted and promoted Alcazar on numerous occasions. It is believed Alcazar does not get the full 10 percent of the purse that is the standard trainer's cut.

Jesus Rivero, a surrogate father to De La Hoya, was summarily dumped as trainer after De La Hoya blamed him for his close call against Pernell Whitaker. De La Hoya's camp spins and seethes with turmoil and rivalry. Many are called, many are displaced. Vargas' camp is more cohesive, but he is a Main Events fighter, and the promotional company has its own civil war going on within the Duva family—through no fault of Vargas.

One of several supporters who financed De La Hoya during his amateur days was manager Shelly Finkel, who was ultimately left behind. Finkel co-manages Vargas. Had he been able to hang on to Oscar, De La Hoya and Vargas would be stablemates. A compelling factoid.

Although Vargas faced tougher competition earlier, his roster of opponents is nowhere near the level of De La Hoya's. De La Hoya easily outclassed the legendary Julio Cesar Chavez twice, and just since turning welterweight he has signed on against Quartey, Trinidad, and Shane Mosley. Nowadays, not even Vargas can fault De La Hoya on the level of his competition. He will fight anybody. Period.

Vargas will also fight anybody, but he hasn't been a pro long enough to do so. Forget about the present seven-pound difference in their fighting weights. They are the same size.

They are both bright, both bilingual. Vargas is also witty. Although De La Hoya has a reputation for poise in a crowd, he remains a bit uneasy in the spotlight. Like most fighters, they are both well-mannered.

De La Hoya is a crossover celebrity who lives in an Elvis cocoon surrounded by sharpies who make a lot of money off him and want to make even more. He owns several homes and has been so famous so long that it's uncertain whether he remembers what it was like to live as an ordinary human being. But he's hung on to some of his friends from the old days in East Los Angeles. He is fiercely loyal to his brother Joel Jr. and his best friend Joe Pajar, and both work for him. Vargas has done such a fine job hanging on to his friends from the old days in Oxnard, California, that he has a possible prison sentence hanging over his head.

De La Hoya isn't sure who he is. This shows sometimes when he's in the ring. Vargas knows himself with absolute certainty. And he believes he knows more about De La Hoya than De La Hoya. But what if someday, inside the ring, he finds out otherwise? ■

Ivan Goldman is THE RING'S West Coast correspondent.

Lennox Lewis

(Continued from page 42)

to celebrate his victory at the All Star Cafe, Lewis said he wanted his legacy to be a positive one.

"I like to compare myself to fine wine, that gets better with age," said Lewis. "Every time I step in the ring, I want to better myself."

If Lewis can even come close to doing that, it will certainly force further reevaluations before this most enigmatic of heavyweight champions hangs up his gloves and fades into the Jamaican sunset. ■

New Face

(Continued from page 18)

to intimidate the younger fighter. It didn't work. Harrison dominated from the second round on, boxing beautifully behind his jab and pulling just out of range whenever Patterson loaded up with his right hand. Harrison got stronger as the rounds wore on, while Patterson, his right eye swollen just about shut from the jab by the seventh round, gradually slowed down. The Scotsman was really putting his combinations together by rounds nine and 10, locking up a no-brainer unanimous decision by scores of 99-91, 98-92, and 97-93.

"I'd say it was my best performance, because Patterson was my best opponent," Harrison said in an accent even stronger than his father's. "When my manager,

(Continued on page 60)

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New Face

(Continued from page 57)

Frank Maloney, proposed the fight and asked if I wanted it, I said, 'Of course I want the fight.' I knew I had to stay out of range because he's got good power, but I knew I could beat him. I've been fighting people with good records, not just padding my record, so I knew I was ready for a fight like this. And the people in New York were great. I'd love to fight in New York again."

Even though his father was a pro fighter and a respected trainer, Harrison never really gave boxing a serious thought until he saw the classic first fight between Chris Eubank and Nigel Benn in 1990. He finally decided a couple of years later that he wanted to be a fighter and, though he was getting somewhat of a late start at age 15, his father, who had never gone out of his way to encourage Scott to fight (but was pleased when he decided to), agreed to take him on. There was just one criterion.

"My father said, 'You want to box, you have to be serious and train hard,'" Harrison, primarily a soccer player until that point, recalled. "I said I was serious, and we got right to it."

Harrison quickly built a reputation as a top amateur fighter, winning a Scottish youth crown in just his fourth fight, a Scottish senior title in his 11th fight, and a European 19-and-under gold in his 19th fight at just 17 years of age. He made it to the finals of the Olympic Box-offs, but due in part to an intense schedule that saw him fighting for the fifth time in five days, lost a decision by two points and decided to call a halt to his brief but impressive amateur career after just his second defeat in 30 fights.

Harrison turned pro in October '96 at the age of 19 and won his first three fights before running into a rough patch. In October '97, the Scot was comfortably outboxing 105-fight veteran Miguel Matthews until an accidental clash of heads opened a cut on Harrison's left eyebrow in the third, and he suffered a TKO loss when the referee stopped the bout in the fourth. In his next fight, two months later, Harrison appeared after six rounds to have outpointed Stephane Fernandez—but he was fighting a Frenchman in France and was left with a draw that brought his record to a rather unspectacular 3-1-1 (1).

"When I lost my unbeaten record, I just had to remind myself that sometimes these things happen," Harrison said. "I'd won the four rounds against Matthews, but they have different rules in England for an accidental clash of heads. I was real annoyed about it, but since then I've known I just need to keep my chin down so I don't get cut. It was a learning thing for me.

"Then the draw in France, they robbed me. I won easily, at least four of the six rounds. If you got a draw over there against a Frenchman, not a loss, it says something. So I just said to myself afterward, 'I've not been beat yet,' and I've kept positive."

More learning experiences followed, including three straight wins over southpaws leading up to the Patterson fight. In the second of those victories, Harrison was tabbed as the underdog against Ghanaian veteran Smith Odoom, and that pick looked accurate when Harrison went down for the first time in his career from a left to the chin in the first round. But he got right back up, floored Odoom in the second with a dead-on right uppercut, and roared to a clear unanimous-decision win in his first 12-rounder. Then came the decision wins over Mullings and Patterson, both fights in which Harrison generally got stronger as the rounds wore on.

"Scott is a 15-round fighter in a time when they don't have 15-round fights," said Peter. "He has great stamina. He's a pressure boxer, always hunting you down. He's physically very strong for a featherweight. His balance is very good, and he throws combinations well. But his best attribute is his mind. He's very strong-willed and determined."

One thing both Harrisons admit, though, is that Scott is not a puncher. But they also believe his power is not quite as modest as his 25 percent knockout ratio suggests. By fighting quality competition so soon in his career, Harrison never gave himself the opportunity to put together a gaudy kayo streak against no-hopers, as most prospects do.

That approach has also brought him to a point where he feels he's just a few fights away from being ready to challenge for a world title. Harrison is expected to make his first defense of the British Commonwealth belt on July 15 in London, on the undercard of Lewis-Frans Botha. Peter expects his son to be fighting for the European title soon after, and then he intends to target IBF featherweight champ Paul Ingle, who, like Harrison, is promoted by Panix Promotions and managed by Maloney.

"Ingle's a good fighter," said Scott, who has done plenty of sparring with the tenacious titleholder from Scarborough, England. "Sparring's different than fights, so it's hard to draw much from that. People say Paul's head movement makes him difficult, but if somebody's moving their head, they have to stop to punch. That's when you can hit them."

"I don't think Ingle is of Scott's class," Peter boldly said. "Scott would fight anybody if Frank Maloney would suggest it. Scott will always be in a position of having less fights than his opponents, but in the amateurs, he used to beat Russians with hundreds of fights, so I know he can beat experienced guys. The key is that every fight, he's learning. He doesn't just win a fight and then think he's a finished article. I've got Ingle on my mind already, but Scott always just thinks of his next fight. That's a good way of thinking." ■

Olympic Team

(Continued from page 27)

always conscious of scoring points.

"You know guys are going to be running from his power," Mustin reasoned. "He needs to use his boxing skills. He gets overanxious sometimes."

Lacy has bested opponents from Russia, the Ukraine, England, Korea, and Argentina in the past couple of years, and will never be out of a fight in Sydney until the final bell rings.

Olanda Anderson—178 pounds: Anderson of Sumter, South Carolina, will represent the U.S. Army as well as his country at the Summer Games. A thickly muscled 6'2", he has the appearance of a small heavyweight at first glance and boxes from a southpaw stance. The five-time Armed Forces champion finished second to long-time nemesis Michael Simms in the Box-offs, but won his place on the team when Simms dropped out. The 27-

(Continued on page 62)

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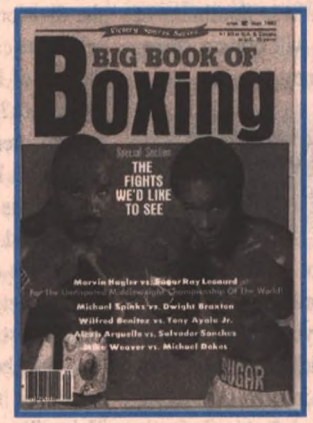

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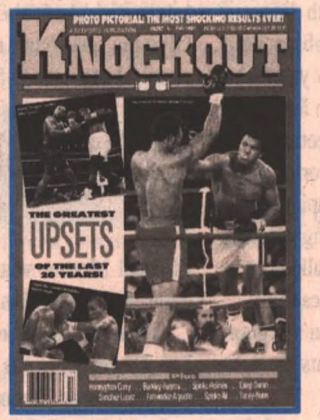

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Olympic Team

(Continued from page 60)

year-old veteran is a steady, plodding performer who appears mechanical at times. When inspired, however, he can be a major force.

Michael Bennett—201 pounds: At age 29, Bennett of Chicago is the grand-daddy of the team and co-captain with Vinson. Another '99 World Championships gold medalist, he took up boxing two years ago after serving seven years in prison for armed robbery. Bennett longs for a meeting with Cuba's Felix Savon, a six-time world champion and two-time Olympic champion in the weight class. They were set to fight in the finals in Houston before Savon pulled out in what may have been a psychological ploy.

"Bennett's not afraid of Savon's reputation," claimed Mustin. "He wants to fight him."

Calvin Brock—Super heavyweight: The quest to become the first American to win the heaviest Olympic weight class since Tyrell Biggs in 1984 falls to Charlotte, North Carolina's Brock. His path to the team was cleared when his long-time rival, DaVarryl Williamson, decided to fight at 201 pounds, where he lost to Bennett. Brock has had a long battle with conditioning problems, but has come on strong after subjecting himself to the Olympic program's rigid training methods. He has international wins over opponents from Russia, England, Canada, Argentina, and Brazil in the past few years, but hasn't been tested at the top international levels. He was dominant in Olympic qualifying and will bring a strong physical presence to Sydney. ■

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Michael Moorer

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Michael Moorer who got off the canvas to dethrone Holyfield in April '94.

What practically everybody does remember, however, is the Michael Moorer who lost to George Foreman in such a shocking and embarrassing manner. In his first title defense, and against a man old enough to be his father, Moorer had been reduced to nothing more than a footnote in history. No longer did people refer to him as the first southpaw heavyweight champion. They referred to him as the man who lost to Grandpa George, who became the oldest heavyweight champion ever when he landed a right hand in the 10th round of a fight Moorer was winning handily on all cards.

It was almost as if Moorer got exactly what he wished for, but later lived to regret it. Foreman always claimed that Moorer didn't want the burden that came with being champion. He didn't want to kiss babies and attend all of those press conferences. And he would do little to help build interest in his fights, preferring to keep tight-lipped and make his comments as sleep-inducing as the fights that would follow his loss to Foreman.

A lackadaisical attitude was okay as long as he fought with passion. Unfortunately, it began to carry over into his performances. Moorer is now stuck with the unshakable perception of being lazy and uninspired, and the evidence was unveiled in his waltzes with Melvin Foster, Axel Schulz, Frans Botha, and Bean. He was content to fight like a typical southpaw and jab his way to victory instead of going for the knockout. He still managed to regain the IBF portion of the title with a decision over Schulz, but the Moorer who outpointed Schulz was a cheap imitation of the fighter Moorer used to be.

"It was very hard for him to get up for a small fight," said Roach. "He doesn't like sparring in the gym too much. He really doesn't want to hurt anybody."

The bottom line is that Moorer doesn't like to fight, but he's good at it and can make lots of money doing it. Even though he still owns an impressive 39-2 (31) record, the division has passed him by. Ask yourself, what credible contender does he stand a chance of beating should he embark on a comeback? Still, Roach, for one, believes that Moorer can make some serious waves and get his life back if he trained seriously.

"Michael is a good friend of mine," Roach said. "I wish him the best, but I wish he'd come down to Los Angeles and see if we can get his career going. Sometimes it takes drastic things to make us wake up. This may be his wakeup call. He's very talented, but he really doesn't care for boxing. He's still a relatively young man, and hopefully he'll see the light."

The consensus among those who know Moorer is that the South Florida episode probably isn't a serious call for help, at least not yet. But their concern about his future is genuine.

"I doubt there was an intent to hurt himself," said Atlas. "I'm not trying to be a psychiatrist, but I think he was looking for attention and a reaction from people around him. I've been very disappointed in some decisions he has made in his life, but I still have feelings about Michael. I don't think of him as a malicious person. He does as much damage to himself as he does to other people. There are good qualities. It makes you feel bad when you hear something like this. If this were someone evil, you wouldn't spend too many moments worrying about him." ■

Johnnie Whitehead is an assistant sports editor at the Orlando Sentinel and a regular contributor to this magazine.

Eddie McGoorty

(Continued from page 47)

ments right now. They pay well for a good fight, and with eight fights and all the theatrical work I could handle, I didn't have to dig down into the family

sock for spending money."

He went back within a year and suffered the first knockout defeat of his career when Les Darcy stopped him in 15 rounds on July 31, 1915. Darcy stopped McGoorty again the following December, and for the next two years McGoorty fought sporadically while supporting himself at the horsetrack and by launching a handbag manufacturing concern in Sydney with none other than his old friendly rival, Clabby.

After the U.S. got into World War I, McGoorty came home and enlisted in the Army. He served as a boxing instructor and resumed his career. He won a newspaper decision over George Chip, who'd also been recognized as middleweight champion earlier, and on July 27, 1918, in a match billed as being for the "middleweight championship of the Armed Forces," McGoorty lost a decision to a Navy boxer named Harry Greb, who later became 160-pound world champion.

McGoorty fought in Europe after the war, mostly against heavyweights. His last fight, on June 17, 1921, was fittingly held in Oshkosh. But it was a sad homecoming, as heavyweight Bud Gorman trounced him in 10 rounds. The record book credits McGoorty with a final record of 65-15-10 (41) with 38 no-decisions.

He was only 40 when cancer and tuberculosis ended his life on November 2, 1929. On the day before McGoorty was buried, the 22,000 fans at the Jimmy McLarnin-Sammy Mandell fight at Chicago Stadium stood while the ring bell tolled 10 times for the man eulogized in the press as "Wisconsin's greatest gift to pugilism" and "the idol of Oshkosh."

"There were no better in the world than McGoorty when he was in his prime," said Milwaukee boxing writer, promoter, and record-keeper Tom Andrews. "Eddie fought scientifically, he used his fine left accurately. There is no question he was a great fighter, and a fine one."

Today, Andrews is the only Wisconsin man in the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Incredibly, McGoorty isn't even in the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, which indicates that Oshkosh school kids aren't the only ones who should be beating a path to Mara Munroe's door. ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

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Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Nov. 1989: The Real Duran; The Stories Behind The Legend. Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Mike Trainer. Also: Edwin Rosario, Rosi-Van Horn.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

July 1990: KO Interview-Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Face-offs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview:

Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Plus: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Plus: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Plus: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Plus: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Plus: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

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Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

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Feb. 1997: KO's 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Plus: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Plus: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Plus: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match! Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Plus: Ike Quartey, George Foreman, top promoters.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Plus: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Plus: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Plus: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Plus: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Plus: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Plus: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Plus: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

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Feb. 2000: Breakout 2000: Who's Going To Lead The Way In Y2K? Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Shane Mosley, Wise-Chavez, Iran Barkley.

March 2000: Mike Tyson: "I'm Tired Of This Crap!" So Are We, Mike! Color Pinup: Vernon Forrest. Interview: James Page. Plus: Erik Morales & Naseem Hamed, Diego Corrales, women's boxing.

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June 2000: Lewis vs. Grant: Who Will Win ... And Why. Color Pinup: Vitaly Klitschko. Interview: Sharmba Mitchell. Plus: Shane Mosley, David Izon, 2000 Hall of Fame.

July 2000: Today's Fighters, Tomorrow's Hall Of Famers. Color Pinup: Keith Holmes. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Zab Judah, Morales-Barrera, Wayne Braithwaite.

August 2000: Mosley Prepares For Oscar: "It Will Be Like The First Round Of Hagler-Hearns. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Plus: Vargas-Quartey, Thomas Hearns, Felix Trinidad, common sense vs. cowardice.

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were complied as of March 2000, the WBC as of April 2000, and the IBF as of March 2000.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	C	C
John Ruiz (USA)	1	1	5
Michael Grant (USA)	2	5	2
Evander Holyfield (USA)	3	2	3
Mike Tyson (USA)	4	4	–
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	5	3	12
David Tua (NZ)	6	6	1
Larry Donald (USA)	7	8	4
Henry Akinwande (GB)	8	9	9
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	9	–	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	10	–	–
Oleg Maskaev (UKR)	12	7	10
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	10	8
Danell Nicholson (USA)	–	–	6
Chris Byrd (USA)	–	–	7

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	–	–	C
James Toney (USA)	1	4	5
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	2	–	6
Alex Gonzalez (PR)	3	8	–
Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)	4	–	12
Torsten May (GER)	5	10	2
Virgil Hill (USA)	6	1	7
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	7	5	9
Lou Del Valle (USA)	8	–	–
Louis Azille (DR)	9	–	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	10	–	–
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	2	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	3	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	–	6	–
Saul Montana (MEX)	–	7	8
Andre Purlette (GUY)	–	9	4
Alex Gonzales (USA)	–	–	1
Arthur Williams (USA)	16	11	3
Carl Thompson (GB)	14	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	9	–
Clinton Woods (GB)	2	12	7
Eric Harding (USA)	3	5	2
Reggie Johnson (USA)	4	–	6
Yawe Davis (ITA)	5	–	–
Antonio Tarver (USA)	6	–	1
David Telesco (USA)	7	6	9
Greg Wright (USA)	8	–	–
Thomas Ulrich (GER)	9	–	–
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	10	7	3
Richard Hall (USA)	12	1	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	2	12
Frank Liles (USA)	–	3	–
Derrick Harmon (USA)	11	4	–
Timo Masua (NZ)	–	8	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	18	10	–
Billy Lewis (USA)	28	11	4
Thomas Tate (USA)	–	–	5
Jimmy Crawford (USA)	–	–	8
Lincoln Carter (USA)	16	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Markus Beyer (GER)	C	–	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	C
Glenn Catley (GB)	1	7	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	2	–	–
Mario Velt (GER)	3	3	8
Richie Woodhall (GB)	4	–	–
Omar Sheika (USA)	5	–	7
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	6	–	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	7	6	1
David Starie (GB)	8	10	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	9	2	–
Stephane Ouellet (CAN)	10	–	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	–	1	5
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	4	–
Mike Makata (NZ)	–	5	–
Fredric Alvarez (SWE)	17	8	9
Mads Larsen (DEN)	11	9	–
James Butler (USA)	27	–	2
Syd Vanderpool (CAN)	–	–	3
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	–	4
Tocker Pudwill (USA)	–	–	6
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	12	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Robert McCracken (GB)	1	11	–
Erland Betare (FRA)	2	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	3	–	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	4	–	6
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	5	–	–
Howard Eastman (GB)	6	2	7
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	7	–	–
Ali Ennebati (FRA)	8	–	8
Davey Hilton (CAN)	9	12	4
Antwun Echols (USA)	10	9	–
Rito Ruvalcaba (MEX)	–	1	9
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	11	3	–
Ramon Moyano (ARG)	–	4	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	–	5	5
Winky Wright (USA)	–	6	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	7	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	8	–
Johnson Tshuma (ZIM)	13	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	2
Brian Barbosa (USA)	14	–	3
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	C	–	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	C	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	–	C
Tony Marshall (USA)	1	–	–
David Reid (USA)	2	2	–
Roman Karmazin (RUS)	3	5	8
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	4	1	–
Anthony Jones (USA)	5	10	12
Alfred Ankamah (GHA)	6	–	–
Tony Badea (ROM)	7	–	–
Quirino Garcia (MEX)	8	–	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	9	6	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	10	7	–
Jose Flores (MEX)	–	3	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	4	6
Ricardo Mayorga (NIC)	24	8	–
Emmett Linton (USA)	–	9	5
Ross Thompson (USA)	25	–	1
Paul Vaden (USA)	12	–	2
Winky Wright (USA)	–	–	3
Bronco McKart (USA)	14	–	4
Pat Coleman (USA)	–	–	7
Marshall Simpson (GUY)	–	–	9
Evans Ashira (DEN)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
James Page (USA)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Shane Mosley (USA)	1	2	2
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	2	4	5
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	3	–	–
Vernon Forrest (USA)	4	5	3
Alessandro Duran (ITA)	5	12	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	6	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	7	11	–
Kofi Jantuah (GHA)	8	–	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	9	–	–
Carlos Baldomir (ARG)	10	9	–
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	22	1	10
Michael Trabant (GERE)	23	3	–
Thomas Damgaard (DEN)	12	6	–
Oba Carr (USA)	14	7	4
Jeff Malcolm (AUS)	–	8	–
Frank Olsen (DEN)	16	10	6
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	1
Andrew Murray (USA)	–	–	7
Sam Garr (USA)	15	–	8
Scott Dixon (GB)	–	–	9

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Zab Judah (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	–	–
Oktay Urkal (TUR)	2	4	6
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	3	3	–
Arturo Gatti (CAN)	4	–	–

Gianluca Branco (ITA)	5	–	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	6	–	–
Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)	7	–	–
Ahmed Santos (USA)	8	–	–
Ricky Quiles (USA)	9	–	–
Teddy Reid (USA)	10	–	10
Hector Camacho Jr (PR)	–	1	5
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	–	2	–
Junichi Ono (JAP)	–	5	–
Fred Pendleton (USA)	–	6	–
Demetrio Ceballos (PAN)	–	7	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	–	8	–
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	9	–
Giuseppi Laury (ITA)	30	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Allan Vester (DEN)	18	–	3
Cesar Leiva (ARG)	–	–	4
Jason Rowland (GB)	–	–	7
Gabriel Mapuoka (FRA)	12	11	8
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	–	9

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	C	–
Paul Spadafora (USA)	–	–	C
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	1	–	–
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	2	–	4
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	3	–	6
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	4	4	–
Hector Camacho Jr (USA)	5	–	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	6	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	7	–	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	8	2	5
James Leija (USA)	9	–	8
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	10	3	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Oscar Garcia Cano (SPA)	12	5	–
Stefano Zoff (ITA)	–	6	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	22	7	–
Miguel Calist (PAN)	–	8	–
Raul Balbi (ARG)	–	9	–
Edson Xuxa Nascimento (BRA)	–	10	–
Billy Irwin (CAN)	21	–	1
Joel Perez (USA)	–	–	2
Ivan Robinson (USA)	18	–	3
Wilfrido Ruiz (USA)	–	–	7
Angel Manfredy (USA)	–	–	9
Mike Griffith (USA)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	C	–	–
Jongkwon Baek (KOR)	–	C	–
Diego Corrales (USA)	–	–	C
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	–	5
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	2	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	3	–	–
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	4	8	–
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	5	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	6	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	7	–	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	8	12	9
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	9	–	–
Dennis Holbaek (DEN)	10	–	–
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	–	1	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	3	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	–	4	–
Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)	–	5	–
Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)	14	6	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	7	–
Luis Navarro (USA)	–	9	10
Kyuchul Choi (KOR)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	13	–	3
Derrick Gainer (USA)	–	11	4
Carlos Hernandez (USA)	–	–	6
Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)	29	–	7
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	–	8

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Guty Espadas (MEX)	C	–	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	C	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	–	–	C
Injin Chi (KOR)	1	–	–
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	2	–	10
Edgar Barcenas (MEX)	3	–	–
Istvan Kovacs (HUN)	4	6	–
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	5	8	–
Takeo Imaoka (JAP)	6	–	–
Augie Sanchez (USA)	7	–	7
Steve Robinson (GB)	8	–	–
Raul Perez (MEX)	9	–	–
Kevin Kelley (USA)	10	12	12
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	–	1	3
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	2	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	3	8
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	4	11
Philip Ndou (SA)	–	5	–
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	14	7	–
Richard Carrillo (VEN)	–	9	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	19	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	2
Manuel Medina (MEX)	16	–	4
Frankie Toledo (USA)	–	–	5
Oscar Larios (MEX)	–	–	6
Junior Jones (USA)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	–	–
Clarence Adams (USA)	–	C	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	–	–	C
Michael Brodie (GB)	1	7	2
Willie Jorrin (USA)	2	–	3
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	3	–	–
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	4	–	–
Oscar Larios (MEX)	5	–	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	6	–	–
Manny Pacquaio (PHIL)	7	–	12
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	8	10	5
Israel Vazquez (MEX)	9	–	8
Shin Yamato (JAP)	10	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Yobert Ortega (VEN)	23	2	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	3	–
Nestor Garza (MEX)	–	4	–
Vladislav Antonov (RUS)	24	5	6
Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)	–	6	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	–	8	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	–	9	11
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	1
Jesus Salud (USA)	–	–	4
Agapito Sanchez (DR)	17	–	7
Hector Julia Avila (DR)	12	–	9
John Johnson (USA)	16	11	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	C	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	1	4	8
Jess Maca (PHIL)	2	–	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	3	7	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	4	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	5	–	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	6	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	7	–	5
Ricardo Barajas (MEX)	8	–	–
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	9	–	–
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	10	12	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	2	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	3	–
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	–	5	–
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	–	6	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	8	–
Rafael Marquez (MEX)	13	9	12
Wate Singwancha (THAI)	–	10	–
Jesus Perez (COL)	23	–	1
Arthur Johnson (USA)	12	–	2
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	3
Pete Frissina (USA)	24	11	4
Noel Wilders (GB)	22	–	6
Paul Lloyd (GB)	–	–	7
Mauricio Martinez (PAN)	–	–	9
Steve Dotse (GHA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
In Joo Cho (KOR)	C	–	–
Hideki Todaka (JAP)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Eric Morel (USA)	1	–	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	–	8
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	3	9	10
Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)	4	–	6
Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)	5	–	–
Masanori Tokuyama (JAP)	6	–	–
Seungrok Choi (KOR)	7	–	–
Trinidad Mendoza (MEX)	8	–	–
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	9	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	4
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	3	5
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	4	–
Edison Torres (VEN)	–	5	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	6	2
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	7	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	14	8	–
Lester Fuentes (NIC)	25	10	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	–	1
Luis Bolanos (COL)	–	12	3
Raul Juarez (MEX)	–	–	7
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Medgoen Singsurat (THAI)	C	–	–
Sornpichai Kratchingdaeng (THAI)	–	C	–
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	C
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	1	–	–
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	2	–	7
David Guerault (FRA)	3	5	1
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	4	–	–
Mike Trejo (USA)	5	11	4
Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	6	–	–
Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)	7	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	8	10	3
Everardo Morales (MEX)	9	–	–
Damaen Kelly (GB)	10	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	1	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	2	11
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	3	–
Panieng Okuda (THAI)	–	4	–
Eric Morel (USA)	–	6	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	–	7	12
Jose Lopez (VEN)	–	8	–
Gilberto Keb Baas (MEX)	12	9	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Zoltan Lunka (TUR)	20	–	5
Pedro Pena (USA)	–	–	6
Jose Landin (USA)	–	–	8
Angel Priolo (COL)	–	–	9
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yosam Choi (KOR)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	–	–	C
Jorge Arce (MEX)	1	7	9
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	2	9	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	3	5
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	4	2	–
Panieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	5	–	–
Bebis Mendoza (COL)	6	–	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	7	–	–
Eric Ortiz (MEX)	8	–	–
Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (THAI)	9	–	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	10	8	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	–	1	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	4	–
Yura Dimas (MON)	–	5	–
Jose Sanjuanelo (COL)	–	6	–
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	–	10	4
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	11	3
Pongsaklek Sithkanongsak (THAI)	–	–	6
Alex Sanchez (PR)	–	–	7
Domingo Guillen (DR)	–	–	8
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	C	–	–
Noel Arumbulet (VEN)	–	C	–
Zolani Petelo (SA)	–	–	C
Daniel Reyes (COL)	1	4	1
Erdene Chuluun (MON)	2	–	–
Wandee Chor Chareon (THAI)	3	–	–
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	4	–	10
Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)	5	–	–
Fernando Luna (MEX)	6	–	–
Juan Keb Baas (MEX)	7	–	–
Makoto Suzuki (JAP)	8	12	–
Jaewon Kim (KOR)	9	–	–
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	10	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	–	1	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	2	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	3	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	5	–
Atsushi Sai (JAP)	–	6	–
Udomdet Porpaoin (THAI)	–	7	–
Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)	15	8	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	16	9	–
Fasan Pongsawan (THAI)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	3
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	4
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	5
Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)	–	–	6
Rocky Lim (TWN)	–	–	7
Alberto Rossel (PERU)	–	–	8
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	9

CLASSIC

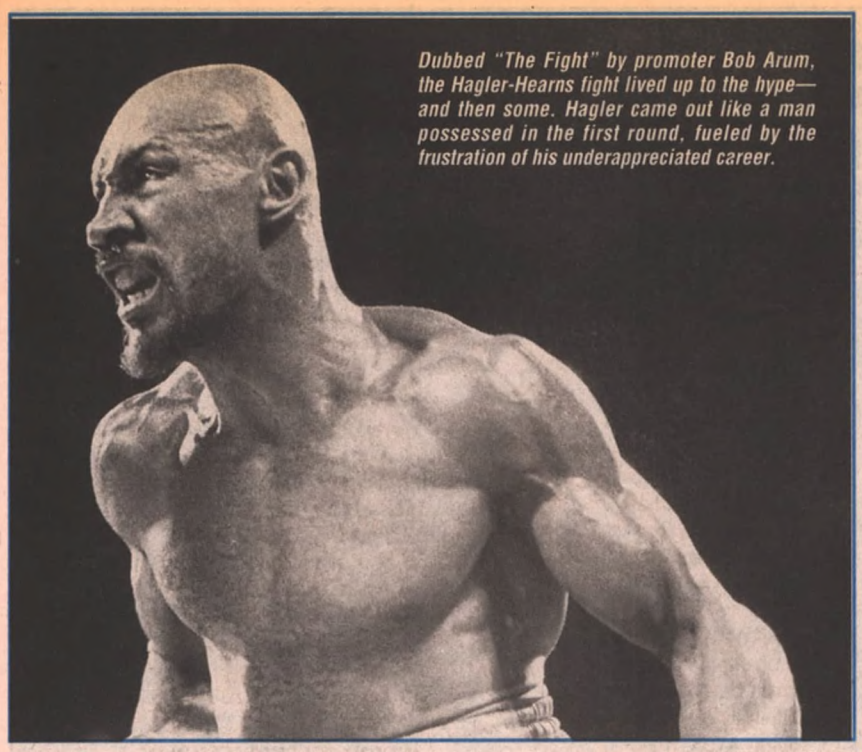
MARVELOUS MARVIN HAGLER: A SUPERSTAR AT LAST

By Nigel Collins

It wasn't until a couple of days after his knockout over Thomas Hearns that the true measure of Marvelous Marvin Hagler's spectacular victory really hit home. I had returned from Las Vegas and was sitting in front of the television, allowing some silly sitcom to gradually lull me to sleep. But before Morpheus could carry me away to the Land of Nod, my attention was galvanized by the sight

Marvin Hagler reached superstardom with his titanic third-round knockout of Tommy Hearns. Whether it was appearing in a pizza commercial or rock music video, Hagler's smile was recognized by more than boxing fans.

From THE RING, July 1985



Dubbed "The Fight" by promoter Bob Arum, the Hagler-Hearns fight lived up to the hype—and then some. Hagler came out like a man possessed in the first round, fueled by the frustration of his underappreciated career.

of Marvelous Marvin filling the TV screen.

He was munching on a slice of pizza pie, while in the background, somebody laid down some tasty blues licks on the guitar. After savoring a mouthful, the undisputed middleweight champion of the world lowered the pizza, smiled and said: "I was thinkin', I wonder what old-what's-his-name is having tonight?" Then, stifling a chuckle, Marvin nailed the punchline as deftly as he nailed Hearns ... "Probably soup."

Although Hagler's savage knockout over Hearns had won him the adulation of the boxing world, the commercial for a national pizza chain proved that he has finally achieved recognition from a sanctioning body far more powerful than the WBC, WBA, or IBF—Madison Avenue.

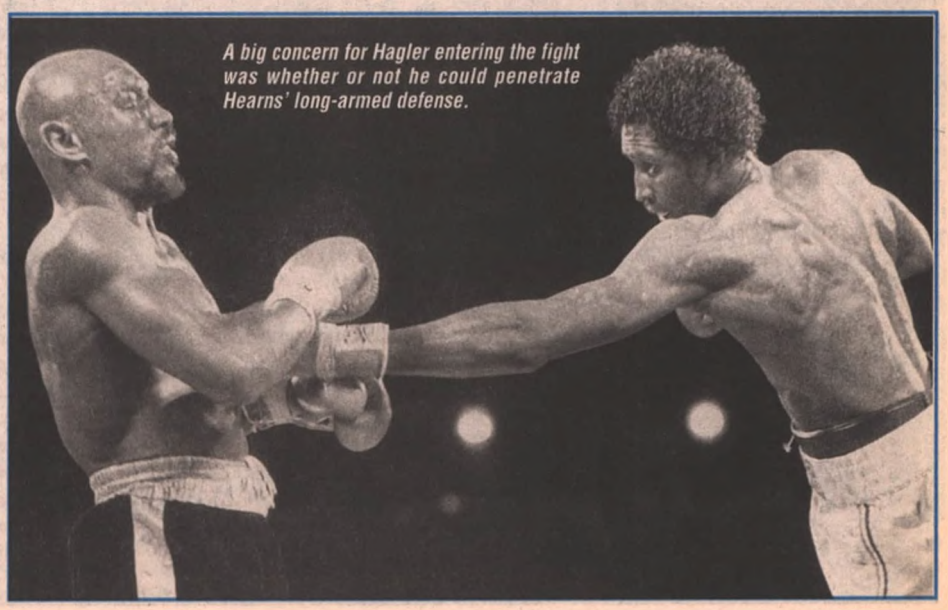
The pizza commercial is not the only sign that Hagler has, at long last, reached superstar status.

A rock video by Van Zant, currently being shown on television, also features Marvin posing and punching as rock 'n' roll types cavort around the gym. The ironic thing about Hagler's sudden popularity with the mass media is that the same strictly business image that limited his appeal in the past is now responsible for making him the most popular tough guy since Mr. T. Hagler didn't change to accommodate any press agent's script. There's still no phony breast beating. Marvin just stayed true to himself, and eventually the rest of the world discovered how special an athlete he really is.

While it is true that Hagler is a professional fighter in every sense of the word, there is another side to his nature besides the snarling destroyer who turned "The Hit Man" into a horizontal zombie. Marvin has a very down-to-earth quality about him. Absolutely no pretension. He's the sort of guy you could imagine meeting for a few beers at the local taproom. That's probably the reason his pizza commercial (reportedly ad-libbed) comes off so well. In or out of the ring, Hagler is for real.

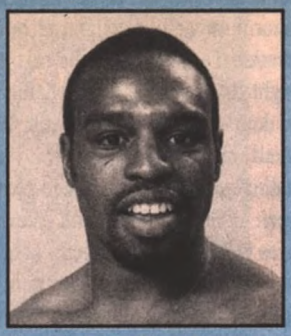
For years, Hagler had been denied the acclaim he so richly deserved. It seemed that no matter how well he fought, or how often he defended the title against the best the middleweight division had to offer, there were always doubters, eager to find fault. When he splattered opponents all over the ring with devastating power, the critics said he was just a slugger. When he boxed with care and precision, as he did against Roberto Duran, they called him "Mediocre Marvin" and "Marginal Marv." It was as if Hagler had been cursed by the very versatility that made him such a great fighter in the first place. But then, the general public has seldom been known for its discriminating taste or astute judgment. Like the stubborn mule, the populace often has to be hit over the head with a sledgehammer before they sit up and take notice. And that's exactly what Hagler eventually did by annihilating Hearns—the fighter so many had picked to beat him. He did it with all the ferocity and finality of an assassin's bullet. If any skeptics remain, they deserve a fate far worse than Hearns'.

If Hagler's journey to fulfillment has been long and arduous, it has also helped forge the kind of man capable of the violence perpetrated on Hearns. When Hagler exploded out of his corner at the sound of the opening bell, it was as if he was fueled by the very frustration he's been forced to endure throughout his unappreciated career. If Marvin was a man possessed, as many claimed he appeared to be against Hearns, it was a possession tempered by several decades of grueling work and dedi-



A big concern for Hagler entering the fight was whether or not he could penetrate Hearns' long-armed defense.

THE RING RATINGS, July 1985



Rocky Lockridge

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Larry Holmes, Easton, PA
1. **Pinklon Thomas**, Wyandotte, MI
2. **Tim Witherspoon**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Tony Tubbs**, Cincinnati, OH
4. **Greg Page**, Louisville, KY
5. **Gerrie Coetzee**, South Africa
6. **Mike Weaver**, Diamond Bar, CA
7. **Michael Dokes**, Akron, OH
8. **David Bey**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **James Smith**, Magnolia, NC
10. **Gerry Cooney**, Huntington, NY

CRUISERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos (Sugar) DeLeon, Puerto Rico
1. **Piet Crous**, South Africa
2. **Eddie Mustafa Muhammad**, Brooklyn, NY
3. **Osvaldo Ocasio**, Puerto Rico
4. **Anthony Davis**, Las Vegas, NV
5. **Lee Roy Murphy**, Chicago, IL
6. **Dwight Muhammad Qawi**, Camden, NJ
7. **John Odhiambo**, Uganda
8. **Alfonzo Ratliff**, Chicago, IL
9. **Henry Hearns**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Ricky Parkey**, Atlantic City, NJ

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Michael Spinks, St. Louis, MO
1. **Marvin Johnson**, Indianapolis, IN
2. **Prince Mama Mohammad**, Ghana
3. **Eddie Davis**, Freeport, NY
4. **Jim MacDonald**, Fort Worth, TX
5. **Willie Edwards**, Detroit, MI
6. **J.B. Williamson**, Inglewood, CA
7. **Jean-Marie Emebe**, Cameroon
8. **Fulgencio Obelmejias**, Venezuela
9. **Grover Robinson**, Fremont, CA
10. **Bobby Czyz**, Wanaque, NJ

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Marvin Hagler, Brockton, MA
1. **John Mugabi**, Uganda
2. **James Shuler**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **James Kinchen**, San Diego, CA
4. **Don Lee**, Gary, IN
5. **Mustafa Hamsho**, Syria
6. **Tony Sibson**, England
7. **Dwight Davison**, Detroit, MI
8. **Doug DeWitt**, Yonkers, NY
9. **Curtis Parker**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Herol Graham**, England

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Thomas Hearns, Detroit, MI
1. **John Mugabi**, Uganda
2. **Mike McCallum**, New York, NY
3. **Carlos Santos**, Puerto Rico
4. **Davey Moore**, Bronx, NY
5. **Mark Medal**, Jersey City, NJ
6. **David Braxton**, Detroit, MI
7. **Buster Drayton**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Julian Jackson**, Stockton, CA
9. **Fred Hutchings**, Virgin Islands
10. **Donald Curry**, Fort Worth, TX

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **Donald Curry**, Fort Worth, TX
2. **Milton McCrory**, Detroit, MI
3. **Tommy Ayers**, Wales
4. **Colin Jones**, Cincinnati, OH
5. **Simon Brown**, Washington, D.C.
6. **Maurice Blocker**, Washington, D.C.
7. **Jerome Kinney**, Highland Park, MI
8. **Herman Montes**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Pedro Vilella**, New York, NY
10. **Carlos Trujillo**, Panama

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **Aaron Pryor**, Cincinnati, OH
2. **Bill Costello**, Kingston, NY
3. **Gene Hatcher**, Ft. Worth, TX
4. **Ronnie Shields**, Port Arthur, TX
5. **Rene Arredondo**, Mexico
6. **Leroy Haley**, Las Vegas, NV
7. **Saoul Mamby**, Bronx, NY
8. **Gary Hinton**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Patrizio Oliva**, Italy
10. **Clinton McKenzie**, England

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **Livingstone Bramble**, Passaic, NJ
2. **Jose Luis Ramirez**, Mexico
3. **Tyrone Crawley**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Jimmy Paul**, Detroit, MI
5. **Harry Arroyo**, Youngstown, OH
6. **Edwin Rosario**, Puerto Rico
7. **Hector Camacho**, New York, NY
8. **Ray Mancini**, Youngstown, OH
9. **Howard Davis Jr.**, Glen Cove, NY
10. **Terrence Alli**, New York, NY

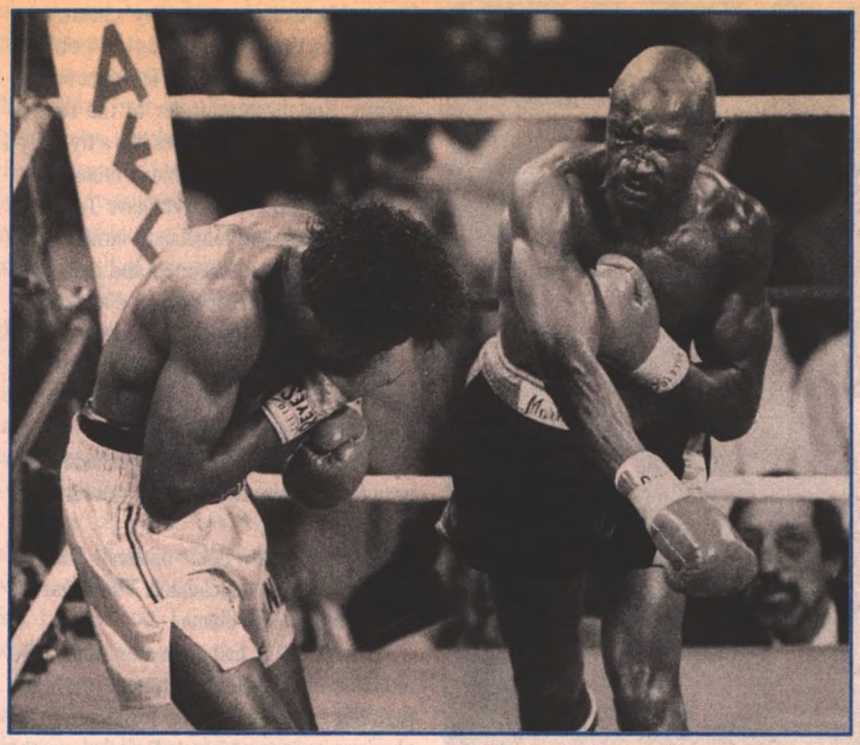
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Rocky Lockridge, Maple Shade, NJ
1. **Julio Cesar Chavez**, Mexico
2. **Roger Mayweather**, Las Vegas, NV
3. **Mario Martinez**, Mexico
4. **Rafael Solis**, Puerto Rico
5. **Bobby Chacon**, Oroville, CA
6. **Edgar Castro**, Venezuela
7. **Kenny Baysmore**, Washington, D.C.
8. **Pat Cowdell**, England
9. **Jean Marc Renard**, Belgium
10. **Dennis Cruz**, New York, NY

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Eusebio Pedroza, Panama
1. **Azumah Nelson**, Ghana
2. **Wilfredo Gomez**, Puerto Rico
3. **Barry McGuigan**, Ireland
4. **Juan LaPorte**, Puerto Rico
5. **Marcos Villasana**, Mexico
6. **Johnny de la Rosa**, Miami, FL
7. **Jackie Beard**, Detroit, MI
8. **Bernard Taylor**, Knoxville, TN
9. **Min-Keun Oh**, Korea
10. **Adrian Arreola**, Los Angeles, CA

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **Victor Callejas**, Puerto Rico
2. **Juan (Kid) Meza**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **Jaime Garza**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Loris Stecca**, Italy
5. **Oscar Muniz**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Raul Gonzalez**, Venezuela
7. **Mike Ayala**, San Antonio, TX
8. **Julian Solis**, Puerto Rico
9. **Leo Cruz**, Dominican Republic
10. **Bernardo Checa**, Panama

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Richard Sandoval, Los Angeles, CA
1. **Albert Davila**, Pomona, CA
2. **Jiro Wantanabe**, Japan
3. **Gaby Canizales**, Laredo, TX
4. **Rafael Orono**, Venezuela
5. **Freddie Jackson**, Houston, TX
6. **Khaosai Galaxy**, Thailand
7. **Greg Richardson**, Youngstown, OH
8. **Jerome Coffee**, Nashville, TN
9. **Miguel Lora**, Colombia
10. **James Pipps**, Vidor, TX

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sot Chitalada, Thailand
1. **Santos Laciar**, Argentina
2. **Jung-Koo Chang**, Korea
3. **Sugar Baby Rojas**, Miami, FL
4. **Gabriel Bernal**, Mexico
5. **Joey Olivo**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Hilario Zapata**, Panama
7. **Alonzo Gonzalez**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Candido Tellez**, Mexico
9. **Francisco Quiroz**, Dominican Republic
10. **Dodie Penalosa**, Philippines



While some blamed Hearns for slugging it out instead of boxing, middleweight champion Hagler's ferocious attack left "The Hit Man" no alternative but to fight back. "The reason why I started slugging is because I had to," Hearns said afterward.

cation to his trade. For as primitive as Hagler's attack may have seemed to the uninitiated, it was not the wild assault of a maniac, rather the controlled onslaught of a passionate warrior. In the illumination of hindsight, it is easy to see why Hearns never had a chance.

Although by now millions of words have been written about "The Fight"—as Bob Arum's publicity mill christened the Hagler-Hearns confrontation—it is worthy of at least this one more telling. The fight was everything anyone could have hoped it would be. The "midget" beat the "freak"—as Hagler and Hearns had taken to calling each other during the prefight war of words. And perhaps the most surprising of all, "The Fight" lived up to the hype.

The capacity crowd of 15,141 packed into Caesars' outdoor arena had been rather mellow during the tedium of the preliminaries and celebrity introductions. But once the fight started, all eyes were riveted on the ring. It was a little like watching a terrible, yet inevitable, accident. You knew you were about to witness something horribly savage, but still couldn't tear your eyes away. The air was suddenly alive with the kind of electricity only a great prize fight can generate.

One of the big questions before the fight was whether or not Hagler could penetrate Hearns' long-armed defense. Marvin missed his first swing, but soon caught Tommy with a right to the head, proving, if nothing else, that he could reach his target. The initial blow from Hagler backed Hearns into the ropes, but as the champion leaped forward, The Hit Man uncorked a wicked right to the head. It was the kind of punch that had destroyed 34 victims, including Pipino Cuevas and Roberto Duran. Hagler's knees buckled momentarily, but that was all. He recovered before Hearns could unleash another blow, and continued to press forward, winging bombs as he came.

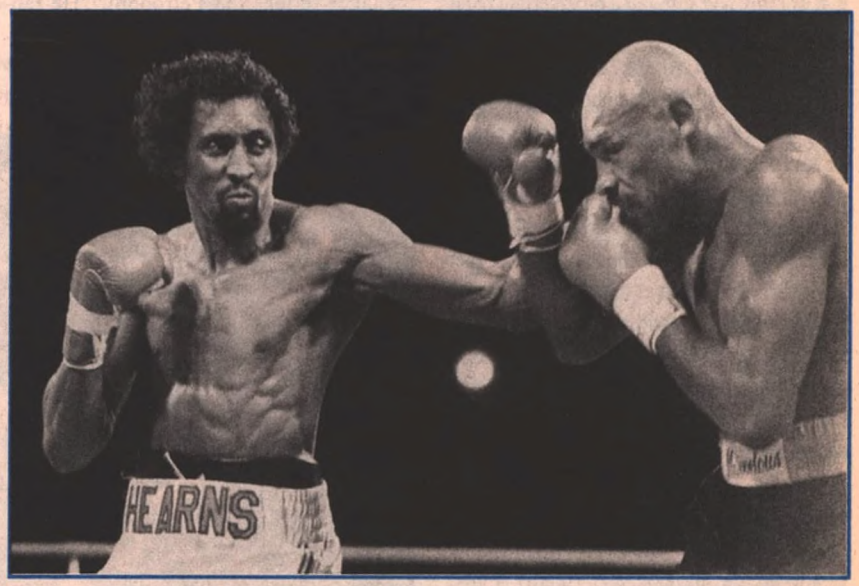
While some later faulted Hearns for slugging it out instead of boxing, the savagery of Hagler's attack left him no alternative but to fight fire with fire.

"The reason why I started out slugging," admitted Hearns, "is because I had to. I was there. It presented itself. Marvin started running in. I had to protect myself. I had to show Marvin I deserved some respect."

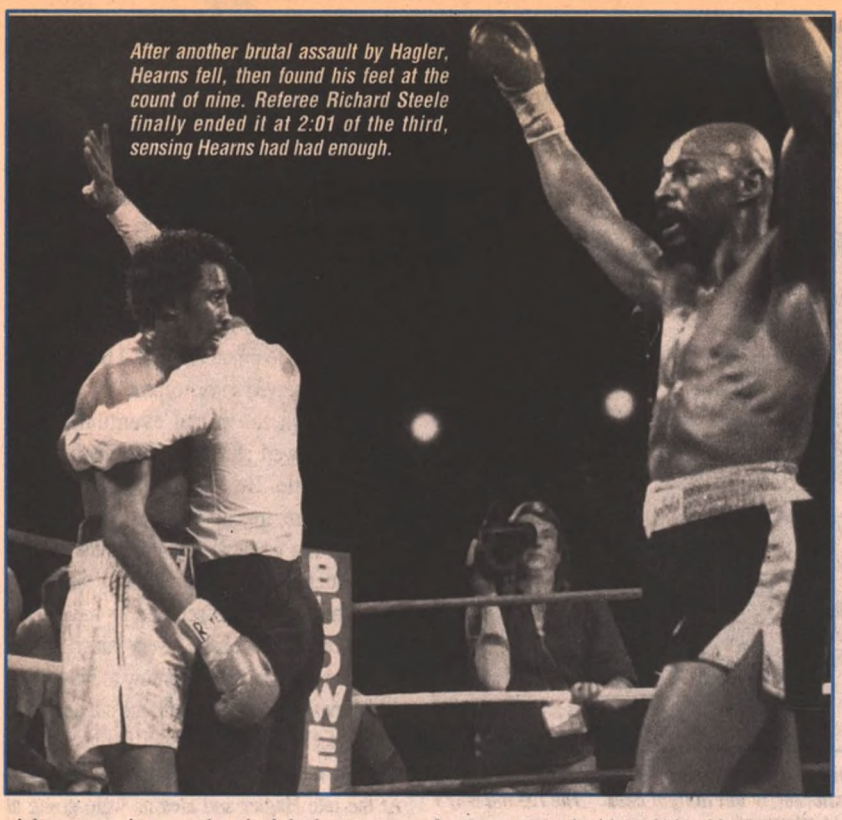
Although he would eventually fall, Hearns showed championship heart in the heat of battle. He fought as he had never fought before, trading punches at an incredible rate. The problem was that while Hearns was matching Hagler practically blow for blow, his best shots seemed to have little effect. On the other hand, every punch Hagler landed seemed to shake Tommy to his core.

Midway into the first, a large cut appeared on Hagler's forehead. It's difficult to know whether it was caused by a punch or a butt. At the rate Hagler and Hearns were going at each other, anything was possible. But although blood was coursing down Hagler's face at an alarming rate, he paid it no attention. He focused strictly on the job at hand—chopping the lanky Hearns down to size.

The non-stop pace continued throughout the first round. It was as if both men were caught up in a frenzied, life-and-death struggle. And indeed they were. When the bell rang, there was a sense among those present that they had witnessed something very spe-



Hearns matched Hagler blow-for-blow in the first round, but his punches seemed to have little or no effect on the constantly charging middleweight champion. On the other hand, every punch Hagler landed seemed to rock Hearns. The Hit Man's chin has never been his greatest asset.



After another brutal assault by Hagler, Hearns fell, then found his feet at the count of nine. Referee Richard Steele finally ended it at 2:01 of the third, sensing Hearns had had enough.

cial—an opening round to rival the best.

In a way, that first round also determined the outcome of the fight. Although he fought on for the better part of two more rounds, the punishment Hearns absorbed in the opening three minutes probably sealed his fate. Hearns may have landed 56 punches to Hagler's 50, according to an outfit known as Sports Information Data Base, but obviously, it was a case of quality winning out over quantity.

The day after the fight, it was revealed that Tommy had suffered a broken right hand. At exactly what point the fist gave way is difficult to ascertain, but the savage right uppercut that briefly stalled Hagler's charge in the early moments of the first is as good a guess as any. Because he stopped sparring six days prior to the fight, there was some speculation that Hearns may have come into the fight with damaged goods. While we haven't seen any evidence to support this theory, if Hearns went into the ring with Hagler in anything less than perfect condition, it was tantamount to committing suicide. But regardless of when the injury occurred, it should in no way detract from Hagler's great victory.

Hagler, 159¼, opened the second the same way he finished the first—full speed ahead, damn the torpedoes. He clipped Hearns with a left hook, and Tommy smiled. But for Hearns supporters there was precious little to laugh about. At one point, the challenger staggered without being hit, a sure sign that the first round had taken its toll on Tommy's legs.

For the first two minutes of the second, Hearns managed to stay away from most of Hagler's big bombs. He landed a lot of punches as Marvin pressured forward, but Hagler kept coming, walking through the best The Hit Man had to offer.

"Marvin took away Tommy's right hand, that was the key," said Marvin's co-manager-trainer Pat Petronelli. "He ran right through that right hand, and when [Hagler] knew he could do that, he knew he could do anything. He took away Tommy's legs and he took away Tommy's heart."

Late in the session, Hagler wobbled Hearns into the ropes with a left-right combination. For the remainder of the round, Hearns was stuck to the ropes like a fly to flypaper, with Hagler giving him a brutal working over. At the bell, Marvin gave Tommy a disdainful look and reluctantly turned to his corner. Hearns half-strutted and half-staggered back to his resting place, a weak-looking smile creasing his lips. He flopped on the stool, looking like a moth who had strayed too close to the flame, and suddenly understood that the heat could be deadly.

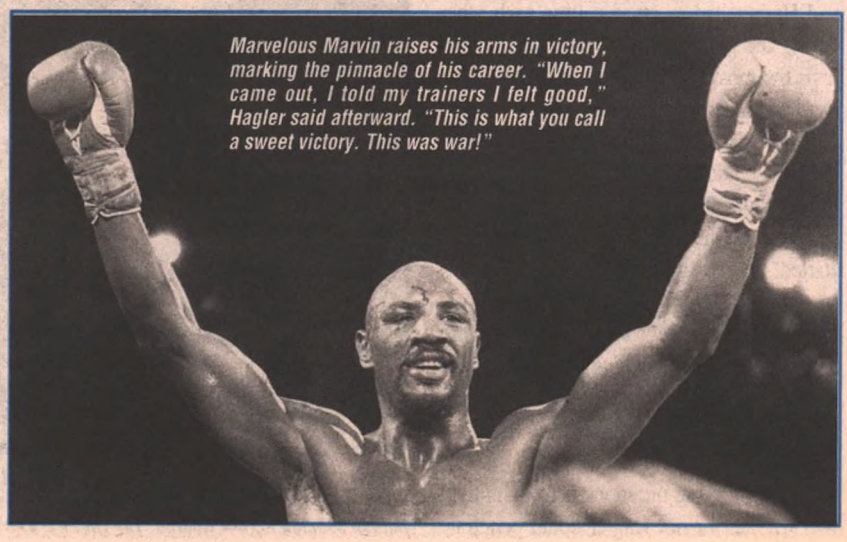
"I knew I had him," Hagler said. "He went back [to his corner] a little slow after the second round."

But victory is a fickle mistress. She was not quite ready to be claimed. There was yet another twist to this drama.

Hearns, 159¾, had spent most of the third round on his bicycle, flicking out jabs when the referee called timeout for the ringside physician to take a look at Hagler's lacerated forehead. A collective groan went up from the crowd, while closed-circuit promoters around the country held their breath. But Dr. Donald Romeo inspected the wound and quickly waved Hagler back into action.

"I was a little afraid," Hagler admitted later. "But when I saw that blood, I turned into a bull. That's when I knew I had to get serious and get the job done quickly."

Quickly is almost an understatement. No sooner had hostilities resumed than Hagler lashed out with a vicious right. The blow struck Hearns on the temple with such an impact, Tommy was sent stumbling backward across the ring. Another right kept Hearns going back, and then,



Marvelous Marvin raises his arms in victory, marking the pinnacle of his career. "When I came out, I told my trainers I felt good," Hagler said afterward. "This is what you call a sweet victory. This was war!"

after missing a left hook, Marvin applied the finisher—another hard right to the cheek.

Hearns collapsed on Hagler's shoulder and then slid down to the floor, rolling over onto his back, arms outstretched. As Steele took up the count, it looked extremely doubtful that Hearns would get up. He finally groped his way to his hands and knees at around five, and then bravely tottered to his feet as the count reached nine. Steele took a good look at the stricken fighter and wisely terminated the contest at 2:01 of the third.

"I knew he had had enough," reported Steele. "His eyes were glazed; his legs were wobbly."

There was no protest from Hearns' corner. One member of his camp picked Tommy up in his arms like a baby and carried him back to the corner. The expression on Hearns' face was that of a man who had survived a plane crash and was shocked that he had lived to tell the tale.

"What can I say?" asked Hearns, still having difficulty getting his breath 35 minutes after the conclusion of his ordeal. "It happens to the best of us. I'm just glad I'm in great physical condition. I'm not hurt. I thank the Lord for letting me come out not being damaged in any way.

"I'm a winner. I don't take defeat easily. I have to give Marvin his proper respect for being a great champion. He's been a great champion and he proved it tonight."

It's hard to say what's ahead for Hearns. While this was only his second loss in 42 pro bouts (34 kayos), it was also his second knockout defeat. In the first round, he provided Hagler with more competition than Marvin had seen in practically all of his 10 previous title defenses put together. But will the experience leave him gun-shy and vulnerable to the punches of John "The Beast" Mugabi, the mandatory challenger for Tommy's WBC junior middleweight crown?

What about a rematch with Hagler? It will take time for Hearns' hand to heal, and, despite the thrilling nature of the fight, it is hard to imagine a rematch with Hagler in the foreseeable future. Perhaps promoter Arum put it best when he asked: "How do you convince people that if they fought again in six months the result would be any different?"

That brings us to the lone sore spot of the evening. What convinced judge Dick Young (not to be confused with the *New York Post* columnist of the same name) to score the first two rounds for Hearns? His colleagues, Herb Santos and Harry Gibbs, agreed with THE RING, giving both completed rounds to the eventual winner.

Hagler, however, wasn't expecting any favors from the scorekeepers. He's been burned in Vegas before, and knew better than to leave anything to chance. But by the time he appeared at the postfight press conference, Marvin was the epitome of the gracious winner.

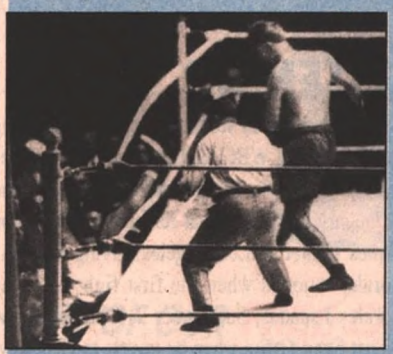
"Tommy is a good fighter. I won't take nothing away from him. He's a very courageous man. He came out the only way you can to try and take it away from the champion. But Tommy was a little cocky, and I had something for him.

"I felt that I wanted to do it better than [Sugar Ray] Leonard. But I still can't take anything from Tommy. It takes two to tango, two to make a great fight. When I came out, I told my trainers that I felt good. When I feel good like that, somebody has to fall. This is what you call a sweet victory. This was war!" ■

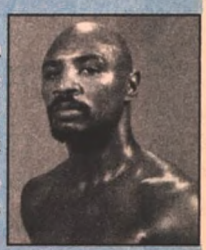
The Cover: Previously ignored by Madison Avenue, Marvin Hagler suddenly burst on to the national scene with his dramatic third-round knockout of Tommy Hearns. After the most impressive victory of Marvelous Marvin's career, THE RING asked whether there were any more mountains to climb. The victory catapulted Hagler to a level he so richly deserved even before the Hearns victory.

Tubbs Turn: Tony Tubbs pulled off a boring unanimous 15-round decision to wrest the WBA heavyweight title away from Greg Page in Buffalo, New York. The two fought a sound, tactical fight, but failed to generate any excitement for the 7,500 at the Buffalo Memorial Auditorium.

The Good, The Bad, The Forgettable: Boxing history has been full of classic "Good vs. Evil" matches, like this heavyweight title fight between Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries. Johnson was presented as an uppity black man and Jeffries the beloved old champ. The two put on a dull display, with Johnson winning by knockout in the 15th.



Great Firsts: THE RING looked back at some of the great first rounds in boxing. Ranked first was this classic between Argentinian Luis Firpo and heavyweight champ Jack Dempsey. Firpo was knocked down seven times, and still managed to come back and knock Dempsey through the ropes. Dempsey kayoed Firpo in the second.

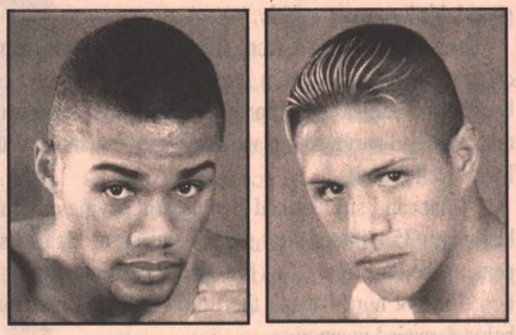


Fighter Of The Month: Was there ever a doubt? Marvelous Marvin Hagler earned the praise of all of the boxing world for his spectacular third-round knockout of Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns. The fight is an all-time classic, with the first round considered one of the greatest of any era.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

WILL TRINIDAD'S OLYMPIC FEAST CONTINUE AGAINST VARGAS?



Trinidad-Vargas: Dynamite in December

WBA super welterweight champ **Felix Trinidad** has chewed up and spit out so many U.S. Olympians, you'd think he was auditioning for the lead role in the sequel to *The Silence Of The Lambs*. He handed **Pernell Whitaker** his only controversy-free defeat, put the first tally in **Oscar De La Hoya's** loss column, and had **David Reid** in more unsteady positions on the floor than your average participant in a game of Twister. Now, "Tito" may get a chance to make it four American Olympians in two years, as a bout with IBF junior middle titlist **Fernando Vargas** is being seriously discussed for this December.

The best part of all is that Trinidad-Vargas could easily be for all three 154-pound belts. Trinidad's promoter, **Don King**, recently reigned in WBC champion **Francisco Castillejo** of Spain, and is looking to sacrifice him to his Puerto Rican superstar after Trinidad takes care of mandatory challenger **Mamadou Thiam**. Vargas, meanwhile, has a mandatory defense to take care of against **Ross Thompson**—a decent fighter, but one who has failed at the top level against the likes of **James Page** and **Oba Carr**—with August 26 as the proposed date. Should both fighters get past their upcoming hurdles with their unbeaten records intact, the decks will be cleared for one of the biggest pay-per-view events of the year.

"We're in talks with Main Events [Vargas' promoter], and I think that fight can be made," said **Bob Goodman**, matchmaker for King Productions. "There are a lot of challenges out there for Trinidad. He has the possible rematch with De La Hoya in the wings, but Felix is a 154-pounder, and he shouldn't have to come down to fight De La Hoya at this point. So that leaves Vargas as probably the best fight out there for him."

Both fighters are eager to get it on, and there may be more at stake here than just the alphabet belts and the perfect records. If either man wins decisively, he becomes a heavy favorite for Fighter of the Year, as Trinidad will have beaten Reid and Vargas, while "Ferocious Fernando" will have disposed of **Ike Quartey** and Trinidad. THE RING bestows belts upon the Fighter of the Year, as well as any newly crowned undisputed champ, so the winner of this one could be going home with some serious hardware.

LISTEN UP

Phillips: Another crack at Tszyu?

Dates have been set for a couple of upcoming **Erik Morales** fights. He'll challenge **Guty Espadas** for the WBC featherweight title on September 2 on HBO, and if he's successful, "El Terrible" will make his first defense as 126-pound champion against **Marco Antonio Barrera** on January 20, 2001. That rematch to their February 2000 war looks like it will land at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, giving Barrera the hometown-away-from-home advantage Morales enjoyed when the first fight was waged in Las Vegas ... On the same date as Morales-Espadas, September 2, **Charles Brewer** will finally get his chance for revenge against **Sven Ottke** when he travels to Germany to try to unseat the IBF super middleweight king ... In other rematch news, more than three years after **Vince Phillips** shocked **Kostya Tszyu** in Atlantic City, the WBC super lightweight champ is looking to even the score. Provided Tszyu gets by **Julio Cesar Chavez** on July 29—and we have a sneaking suspicion he will—a second meeting with "Cool Vince" is being discussed for Australia in the fall ... According to both his father/trainer, **Ham Johnson**, and representatives of his promoter, **Cedric Kushner**, two-division former champ **Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson** should be done serving time for parole violation in September. Johnson is expected to move up in weight when he returns, and a long-overdue bout with **Johnny Tapia** on Showtime at 122 pounds is a possibility ... Question: What's worse than a boxer who should be retired still fighting? Answer: Two fighters who should be retired fighting each other. Believe it or not, a ridiculous heavyweight bout between **Larry Holmes** and **Peter McNeeley** is rumored to be in the works. Now that's what I call a "cocoon of horror." I'd sooner watch a *Mr. Belvedere* marathon. ■

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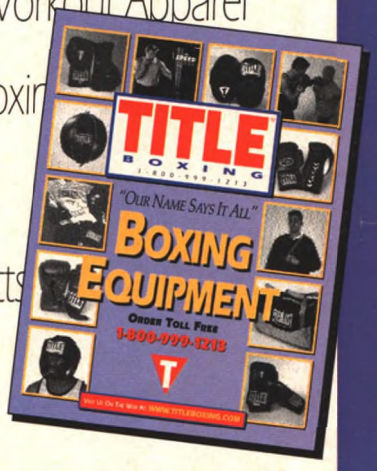

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